Poultry and Egg Situation

Economic Research Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Approved by the World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board

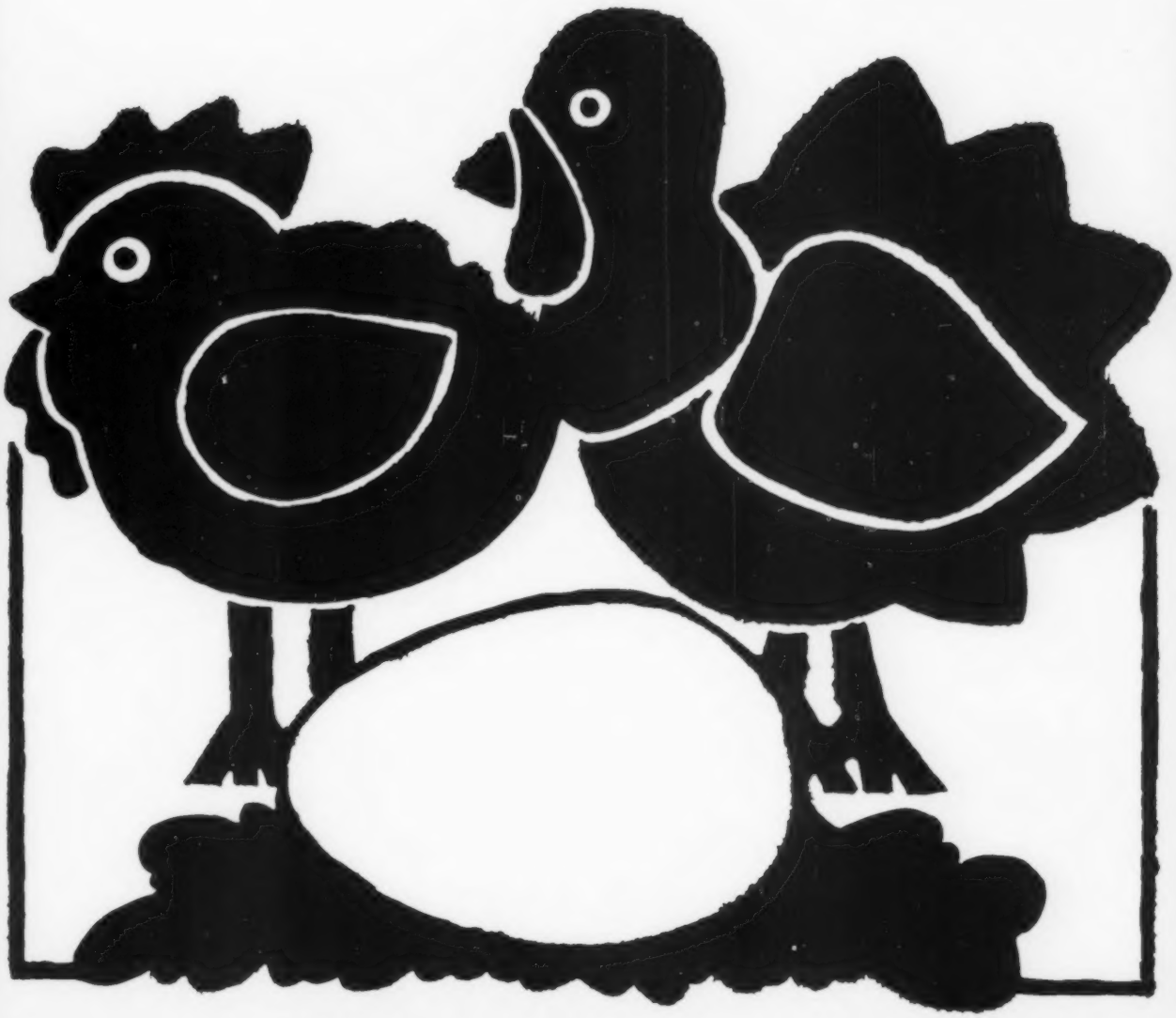

Table 1—Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	1976				1977			
		April	May	June	July	April	May	June	July
		Eggs							
Farm production	Mil. doz.	446.2	456.3	441.3	452.8	446.9	456.4	434.2	441.4
Average number of layers on farms	Mil.	274	271	270	270	272	269	267	267
Rate of lay per layer	No.	19.6	20.2	19.6	20.1	19.7	20.4	19.5	19.9
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	52.7	54.7	53.3	55.1	55.3	49.1	46.8	50.7
14 Metro areas price									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	62.0	63.3	62.3	67.4	63.3	56.1	57.5	63.1
Retail price (BLS)									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	77.6	75.2	74.4	80.0	81.2	75.4	68.7	80.9
Price paid for laying feed	Dol. per ton	144	146	156	162	163	166	162	153
Egg-feed price ratio	Pounds	7.3	7.5	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.9	5.8	6.6
Stocks, first of month:									
Shell	Thous. cases	26	26	22	23	42	42	33	40
Frozen	Mil. lb.	29.4	29.7	28.9	30.1	24.7	25.4	28.1	31.6
Replacement chicks hatched	Mil.	51.5	48.2	42.4	38.6	54.8	52.5	44.4	37.4
		Poultry							
Federally inspected slaughter, cert.									
Broilers	Mil. lb.	742.5	745.4	825.9	766.0	744.9	809.9	843.7	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	79.9	106.5	182.2	213.9	78.9	110.0	176.5	
Price at farm, live weight									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	23.5	24.6	24.3	25.4	24.3	24.3	24.7	26.2
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	31.8	32.1	31.2	31.1	33.6	33.2	33.9	33.7
9-city wholesale broiler price	Ct. per lb.	41.0	42.1	42.1	43.2	41.4	42.2	43.3	44.3
Retail price (BLS)									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	60.7	59.4	62.0	62.6	61.2	60.7	60.5	62.1
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	74.4	74.1	74.7	73.9	68.2	72.2	72.3	72.7
Broiler-feed price	Dol. per ton	159	161	172	181	183	187	184	175
Broiler-feed price ratio	Pounds	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.0
Turkey-feed price	Dol. per lb.	162	165	178	187	195	200	196	188
Turkey-feed price ratio	Pounds	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.6
Stocks, first of month:									
Broilers, fryers, roasters	Mil. lb.	19.4	19.1	17.4	20.0	26.6	24.8	27.9	34.1
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	140.7	114.5	120.8	177.3	142.3	130.3	137.9	201.2
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	248.4	231.5	231.5	300.5	279.4	266.0	280.8	353.5
Average weekly placement of broiler chicks in 21 States	Mil.	68.5	68.2	68.7	65.2	71.7	71.9	71.4	66.9

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SUMMARY

Broiler production will continue moderately larger than a year earlier during the balance of this year and into 1978, but turkey and egg output may not match last year's rate until this fall. Turkey and egg prices are expected to show some seasonal gains in coming months, but egg prices likely will trail 1976 levels.

Market prices for broilers will decline from summer levels this fall as people shift to other meats for the holidays. However, continued gains in consumers' real disposable income and a small decline in total red meat supplies should hold broiler and turkey prices above 1976 levels. Production costs for broilers and turkeys, as well as for eggs, are below a year ago and are likely to remain lower into 1978 if indicated large crops of corn and soybeans turn out as expected.

Egg production is expected to lag a year earlier until fall when output may about match 1976. Output equalled year-earlier levels in April-May but then dropped 2 percent below in June-July as unusually hot weather increased mortality in the laying flock and reduced output per hen. In coming months, layer numbers should gain on 1976, and output per hen should move back above last year. If favorable crop prospects continue, larger feed supplies may lead to expanded egg production in 1978—perhaps 1 percent or more during the first half.

Prices for Grade A large eggs delivered to retailers in New York averaged 58 cents a dozen during April-June, down 5 cents from a year earlier. Egg prices stengthened in July but have weakened again in August.

Prices will strengthen seasonally in coming months but are expected to remain below the relatively high levels of July-December 1976. Retail prices for large Grade A eggs this fall may average around a nickel below the 90 cents a dozen paid during October-December 1976.

The next issue of the *Poultry and Egg Situation* will be published in early December

Despite heavy weather-related losses, broiler output during January-June gained nearly 3 percent from the 1976 record. This increase came from larger marketings as the average marketing weight remained about unchanged. Effects of the unusually hot summer weather will continue to limit gains in broiler production in coming months.

Egg sets during the 7 weeks ending July 24 were up about 4 percent but resulted in only 2 percent more chick placements. These placements will be largely marketed in September and early October. However, with large grain and soybean crops in prospect, broiler production likely will expand, and marketings this fall may run 3 to 5 percent above a year ago. Strong broiler prices and declining feed prices likely will result in continued expansion in early 1978.

The 9-city wholesale broiler price moved above year-earlier levels this spring, averaging 42 cents a pound during April-June. Prices increased to 44 cents for July and will remain relatively strong through the summer before declining in the fall. Some strengthening in red meat prices this fall over a year ago are expected to hold broiler prices around 3 to 5 cents above the 35.5 cents for October-December 1976. Retail prices for ready-to-cook frying chicken may average 2 to 4 cents a pound above the 61 cents a pound for the third quarter and 55 cents for the fourth quarter of 1976.

Prospects look relatively favorable for broilers during the first quarter of 1978. If broiler output runs about 5 percent above a year-earlier, the 9-city price may average slightly below the 41 cents of winter 1977. This assumes red meat output just about the same as first quarter 1977.

Turkey output through June was the same as in 1976. Fewer birds were marketed but weights were heavier. Output will be down this summer but may about match a year ago during October-December. Declining feed prices and stronger market prices for turkeys this summer and fall likely will lead to larger production of poults than a year earlier for marketing during the first half of 1978.

Turkey prices picked up a bit in July when 8-to-16-pound young hens in New York averaged 51 cents a pound, up around a cent from July 1976. Turkey prices are expected to gain seasonally and to average in the low to mid-50's this fall. Retail prices for medium-sized frozen turkeys during the holdiay season likely will average slightly above last year.

The turkey situation looks favorable for the first half of 1978. Feed prices will be lower, and the demand for turkey meat looks relatively favorable. If turkey meat output about equals January-June 1977, the prices for young hen turkeys at New York could average near the 51 cents a pound of a year earlier.

Poultry, Livestock, and Egg Production and changes from a year earlier

	1976				1977				1978	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III[1]	IV[1]	I[1]	II
Broilers[2] (Mil. lbs.)	2,116	2,314	2,372	2,186	2,156	2,399	2,440	2,270	2,260	
Percent change	+15	+12	+14	+10	+2	+4	+3	+4	+5	
Turkeys[2] (Mil. lbs.)	207	369	710	664	210	365	690	665	230	
Percent change	+24	+28	+14	+5	+1	-1	-3	0	+10	
Beef[3] (Mil. lbs.)	6,492	6,145	6,618	6,412	6,329	6,162	6,250	6,250	6,150	
Percent change	+11	+10	+11	+2	-3	0	-6	-3	-3	
Pork[3] (Mil. lbs.)	2,896	2,782	2,951	3,590	3,276	3,186	3,050	3,500	3,500	
Percent change	-5	-5	+17	+27	+13	+15	+3	-3	+7	
Total[4] (Mil. lbs.)	10,012	11,870	12,948	13,168	12,272	12,385	12,715	12,955	12,370	
Percent change	+8	+7	+13	+9	+2	+4	-2	-2	+1	
Eggs (Mil. doz.)	1,358	1,344	1,342	1,360	1,330	1,338	1,330	1,360	1,345	
Percent change	+1	+1	0	0	-2	0	-1	0	+1	

Poultry, Livestock, and Egg Prices

	1976				1977				1978	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III[1]	IV[1]	I[1]	II[1]
Broilers, 9-city[5] (Cents/lb.)	42.2	41.7	41.5	35.5	40.9	42.3	42-44	38-40	39-41	
Turkeys, New York[6] (Cents/lb.)	49.3	48.2	48.5	49.0	50.2	51.5	51-53	53-55	48-50	
Choice Steers, Omaha ($/cwt.)	38.7	41.4	37.3	39.0	37.9	40.8	39-41	40-42	41-43	
Barrows and Gilts 7-markets ($/cwt.)	48.0	49.2	43.9	34.2	39.1	40.9	43-45	37-39	35-37	
Eggs, New York[7] (Cents/dozen)	68.0	63.1	71.8	78.4	74.9	57.8	62-64	67-71	66-68	

[1] Forecast. [2] Federally inspected slaughter. [3] Commercial production. [4] Includes veal and lamb and mutton. [5] Wholesale weighted average. [6] 8-16 lb. young hens. [7] Cartoned, consumer Grade A large, sales to volume buyers.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

FACTORS AFFECTING THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

The demand for turkeys and eggs will increase seasonally this fall, but the demand for broilers will decline as consumers shift to other meats for holiday meals. However, a decline in total red meat supplies from last year's levels and continued gains in consumers' disposable income will likely hold poultry prices above year-earlier levels in coming months.

Economy To Continue Expanding

Following the weather-induced slowdown in the general economy early in 1977 and the sharp rebound which followed, most indicators of economic activity currently point to a moderate but steady growth. Total employment is expected to continue upward, and unemployment may ease slowly downward from the 6.9-percent rate in July. Real disposable personal income during April-June averaged 3.9 percent above a year earlier. It probably will increase further in coming months but perhaps at a slower rate.

Red Meat Supplies Easing

Total red meat supplies during the balance of 1977 are expected to run around 3 percent below the high levels of a year ago but to bounce back to 1977 levels in early 1978. Beef output during July-December likely will be about equal to the previous 6 months though 4 to 5 percent below a year earlier. It will likely continue near this level through the first half of 1978. Pork output is expected to average around 3 percent below 1976 this fall but may run around 6 to 8 percent above year-earlier levels in early 1978.

Increased placements of cattle on feed indicate the second half slaughter mix will contain a higher percentage of fed cattle and fewer nonfed cattle. Although cow slaughter may continue at a relatively high rate, it will be below the high levels of the past 2 years. The decline in total beef supplies will likely result in higher cattle prices. Choice 900 to 1,100 pound steers at Omaha are expected to average in the low $40's for the second half of 1977, compared with $38 per hundredweight a year earlier.

Pork output this year will increase seasonally from summer to fall but decline relative to a year earlier. July-September output will be up around 3 percent but will decline to about 3 percent below in the fall. Market prices for barrows and gilts in 7 markets will decline seasonally this fall but will average $3 to $5 per hundredweight above the $34 for October-December 1976. With the resumption of the upswing in production in early 1978, hog prices are expected to drop $2 to $4 below the $39 for January-March 1977.

Lower Feed Prices Reduce Production Costs

Production costs for poultry and eggs have declined from the high spring levels because of the decline in corn and soybean meal prices. Estimates of April-June 1977 production costs were up sharply from both the prior quarter and a year earlier (tables 15, 16, and 17). Soybean meal prices rose sharply in early 1977 and peaked in April at an average of $299 a ton (49-50 percent protein, Decatur), up $163 a ton from a year earlier. Since April, prices have trended downward and averaged around $135 a ton in mid-August, down $40 from a year earlier. Corn prices, No. 2 Yellow Chicago, have also moved downward—dropping from $2.50 a bushel in April down to around $1.75 in mid-August.

Current production costs of egg, broilers, and turkeys are below year-earlier levels and likely will remain below throughout the balance of 1977 and into 1978 because of lower prices for feed ingredients. The lower cost of feed ingredients likely will more than offset the rise during the past year in the costs of other production items.

As of August 1, the 1977 corn crop was forecast at 6.1 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the record large 1976 crop. A crop of this size combined with increased carryover stocks would lead to corn prices below the previous years. And with good crop prospects in other countries, U.S. exports may drop around 10 to 15 percent from the 55 million short tons estimated for the current marketing year. With production above expected disappearance, another sharp increase in carryover stocks is likely on October 1, 1978. Thus, feed grain prices will likely remain under pressure, and Government loan rates will largely determine corn price levels during the 1977/78 season.

Soybean production is forecast at a record 1.6 billion bushels, up about a fourth from 1976. This reflects the 17-percent increase in planted acres and generally favorable growing conditions in

most major producing areas. Although carryover stocks on September 1, 1977, will be small, a crop of this size would allow some increase in the domestic crush as well as a record export volume. The larger crush would mean increased supplies of soybean meal available to poultry producers at prices well below the previous year through, at least, the first half of 1978.

EGGS

Egg production is expected to trail year-earlier levels this summer but may match 1976 in the fall. Egg prices will strengthen seasonally in coming months but probably average below July-December 1976.

Weather Disrupts Output Again

Egg production has been the victim of unusual weather this year. Early in the year cold weather caused output to dip sharply below 1976 levels, but output bounced back in April-May as the weather moderated. Now, the unusually hot summer weather has again reduced output.

Egg production in June-July was down 2 percent as average layer numbers and output per hen were both down. Layer numbers dropped about 1 million birds from June 1 to August 1. However, slaughter and hatch figures would not suggest such a decline. The slaughter of mature chicken in June was almost 4 million above a year earlier but weekly reports indicate that July's slaughter was down around 2 million. The hatch of egg-type chicks 5 to 6 months earlier indicates that about 4 million more replacement pullets should have entered the flocks in June-July this year. Thus, the hot summer apparently caused increased mortality in the laying flock.

Table 2—Egg-type chick hatchery operations

Month	Hatch			Eggs in incubators first of month change from year earlier	
	1975	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*
January	34,818	35,844	40,249	3	12
February	36,552	39,637	41,306	5	12
March	45,372	50.055	50.991	9	1
April	47,409	51,482	54,838	1	8
May	47,989	48,233	52,454	-1	11
June	40,854	42,351	44,433	3	4
July	38,099	38,609	37,373	1	-1
August	34,934	38,257		4	0
September	33,851	37,721		10	
October	34,801	37,039		9	
November	28,446	36,305		21	
December	30,679	36,647		15	

Hot weather not only caused increased mortality but also resulted in reduced output per hen. The rate of lay in June-July was 3,937 eggs per 100 hens, compared with 3,975 for the same months last year. The rate of lay on August 1 was still down 1 percent.

Fall Output May Match 1976

Third quarter egg production likely will lag last year but output this fall may equal 1976. As the hot weather moderates, layer numbers should gain on a year earlier and output per hen should bounce back. The hatch of egg-type chicks 5 to 6 months earlier would indicate that around 4 percent more replacement pullets than a year earlier will be available to enter the laying flock during the remainder of 1977 (table 2). It is unlikely that this prospective increase will be offset by heavy culling of old hens, as it was in the first half of 1977. Soybean meal prices have dropped sharply and crop prospects continue to look favorable.

Output per hen should pick up and surpass 1976 levels as the hot weather moderates. The recent heavy cull of old hens means the flock is young and has an excellent potential for increased output per bird.

Pullet chicks placed for laying flocks, 1968-72 average and 1973-77*

Month	1968-72 average	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	Million					
January	22.5	21.7	20.0	19.6	20.3	22.7
February	23.8	22.9	21.3	20.4	22.4	23.1
March	31.0	29.1	26.0	25.4	27.9	28.4
April	34.5	30.0	30.1	26.2	28.8	30.7
May	32.9	30.6	28.8	26.9	27.3	29.3
June	26.8	24.9	24.2	22.9	23.8	24.9
July	23.1	23.1	20.6	21.5	22.1	21.5
August	20.9	23.8	19.8	20.1	22.0	
September	21.5	24.1	18.2	19.6	21.4	
October	22.2	25.9	19.9	19.8	21.2	
November	20.0	22.5	18.7	16.5	20.6	
December	20.1	20.0	18.4	17.7	20.9	
Total	299.3	298.6	266.0	256.7	278.8	

*One-half of egg-type chick hatched plus pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders.

First Half 1977 Output Down

Egg production during January-June totaled 2,667 million dozen, down a little over 1 percent from a year earier. The drop was due to an average of 1 percent fewer layers and 1 less day of production.

Layer numbers in the first half of 1977 did not gain as earlier expected because of sharp increases in the culling of old layers. Mature chickens

Layers on farms and eggs produced

Calendar quarters	Number of layers		Eggs per layer		Eggs produced	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*
I	279	277	58.3	57.6	1,357.9	1,329.8
II	272	269	59.4	59.6	1,343.9	1,337.6
III	272		59.2		1,342.3	
IV	279		58.5		1,359.9	
Annual	277		235.4		5,404.0	

slaughtered under federal inspection during January-June totaled 106 million head, 10.5 million above a year earlier. This was the highest slaughter for the period since the 107 million in January-June 1974. However, the heavy cull in 1974 came from a much larger flock than in the first half of 1977. The laying flock at the beginning of 1974 totaled 297 million, but the flock numbered only 281 million on January 1, 1977.

The heavy cull of old hens was apparently caused not only from the effects of the cold winter weather but also by the sharp increase in soybean meal prices at the same time as market prices for eggs were dropping sharply. The loss situation, combined with uncertainty about 1977 crop prospects, caused producers to cull heavily and reduce force molting. On July 1, 13.3 percent of the hens and pullets of laying age in 17 States had completed at least one molt and another 4.1 percent were being molted. The comparable figures on July 1, 1976, were 14.4 with molt completed and 4.3 percent being molted (table 3).

Egg Prices to Increase Seasonally

Egg prices dropped below a year earlier in April and, while increasing seasonally in coming months, they are expected to remain below 1976.

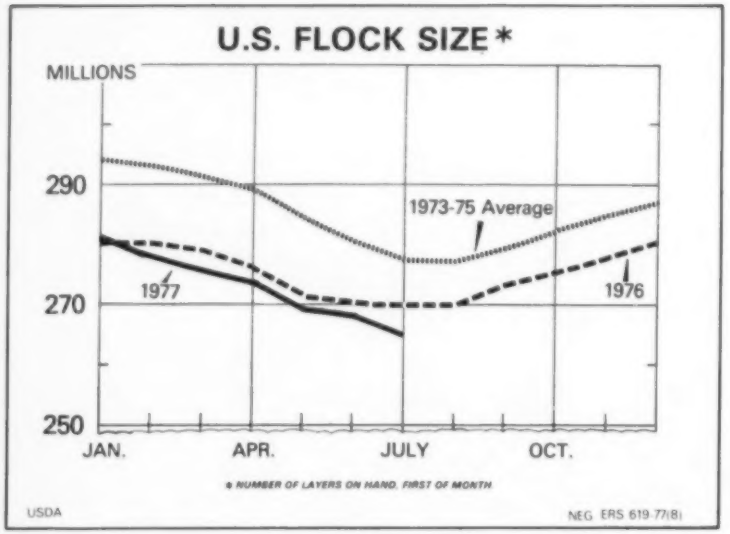
Prices of Grade A cartoned large eggs delivered to retailers in New York averaged a little over 66 cents a dozen in the first 6 months of 1977, slightly above a year earlier. Early in the year, prices were well above 1976 but second quarter prices dropped sharply below. Prices then strengthened, averaging 62 cents a dozen in July, but weakened again in early August.

The hot weather, combined with the large number of young pullets, resulted in fewer large eggs and more medium-size eggs. This caused an unusually wide spread between market prices for large and medium-size eggs. In early June, the spread between large and medium size eggs delivered in cartons in New York was running around 10 cents a dozen. However, by late July, the spread had widened to 18 cents a dozen and averaged 16 cents a dozen for that month. Last July, it was only 9 cents and the average for July 1972-76 was only 8 cents a dozen. The spread has narrowed recently and was running around 10 cents a dozen in mid-August.

Extremes in weather conditions tend to cause layers to reduce egg sizes, and the hot weather resulted in the hens laying more medium-size eggs.

Table 3—Forced molt layers as a percent of hens and pullets of laying age, first of month, selected states, 1976-77

State	Being molted						Molt completed					
	June		July		August		June		July		August	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Percent											
Alabama	2.0	4.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	8.0	5.0	8.0	7.0	9.5	8.5
Arkansas	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.0	4.5	4.5	5.0	6.0	5.0	6.0
California	16.0	11.5	8.5	8.0	9.5	8.5	35.5	29.5	39.0	36.0	38.0	36.5
Florida	6.5	9.5	7.5	3.0	6.5	3.0	9.0	11.5	8.5	17.0	12.0	18.5
Georgia	8.0	6.5	4.0	6.0	5.5	3.5	14.5	9.5	16.5	10.5	19.0	14.0
Indiana	1.5	1.0	3.5	2.0	1.0	1.5	7.0	5.0	6.5	5.0	7.0	5.0
Iowa	2.0	3.0	1.0	3.5	2.0	2.5	4.0	5.5	3.0	3.0	4.5	5.0
Mississippi	1.0	1.5	2.5	.5	4.0	0	.5	2.5	.5	4.0	.5	4.0
New York	.5	2.5	.5	1.5	.5	1.0	4.0	5.0	2.5	4.5	3.0	3.0
North Carolina	6.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	2.5	2.5	4.0	3.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	5.5
Ohio	2.0	2.0	3.5	1.5	5.0	3.0	3.5	4.5	5.5	4.5	6.5	5.5
Oregon	4.0	9.0	1.5	3.5	2.5	8.0	33.0	22.5	33.0	24.5	30.0	21.0
Pennsylvania	3.0	2.0	2.0	.5	2.0	2.5	4.0	3.0	4.5	3.5	7.0	3.5
South Carolina	6.5	2.5	2.0	4.5	1.5	1.5	7.0	4.0	11.5	3.0	10.0	7.5
Tennessee	4.0	6.5	3.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	8.5	6.0	8.5	6.0	12.5
Texas	5.0	1.0	1.5	1.5	2.0	.5	4.5	4.5	3.0	4.5	5.5	3.5
Washington	12.0	11.0	12.5	8.0	18.5	10.5	32.5	30.5	34.0	33.5	32.5	32.0
17 States	6.6	5.5	4.3	4.1	4.7	3.6	13.5	11.3	14.4	13.3	15.4	14.3


U.S. FLOCK SIZE*
MILLIONS
290
270
250
1973-75 Average
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF LAYERS ON HAND, FIRST OF MONTH
USDA
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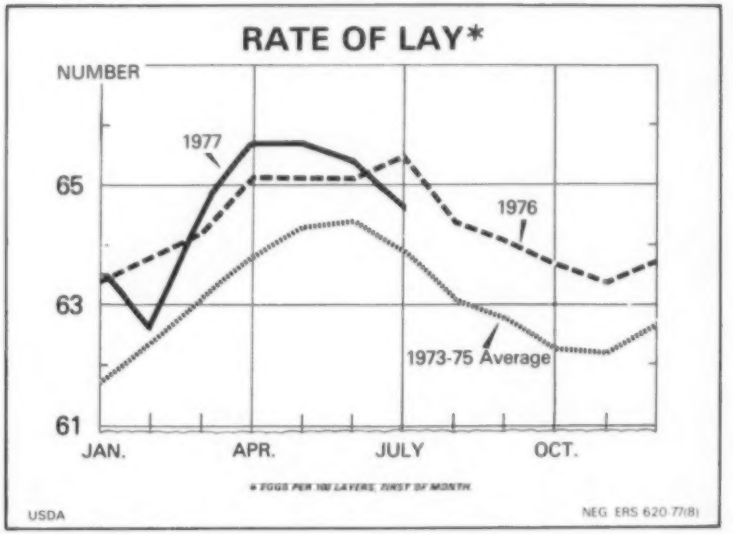
RATE OF LAY*
NUMBER
65
63
61
1977
1976
1973-75 Average
JAN.
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JULY
OCT.
* EGGS PER 100 LAYERS, FIRST OF MONTH
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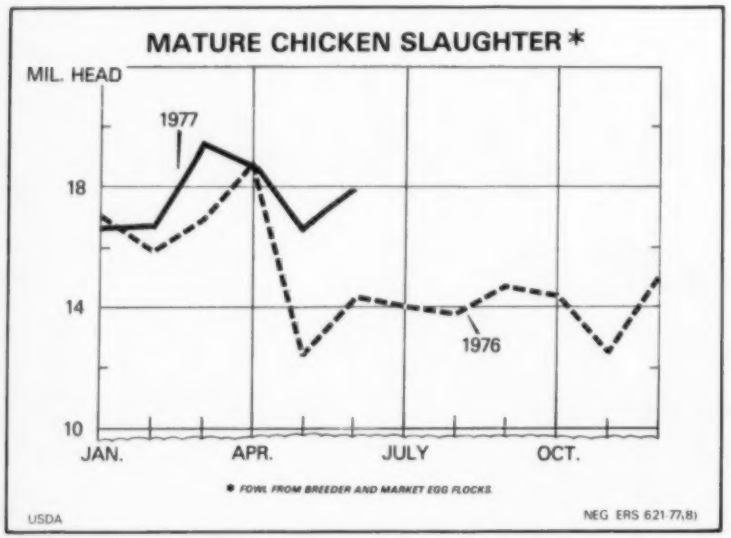
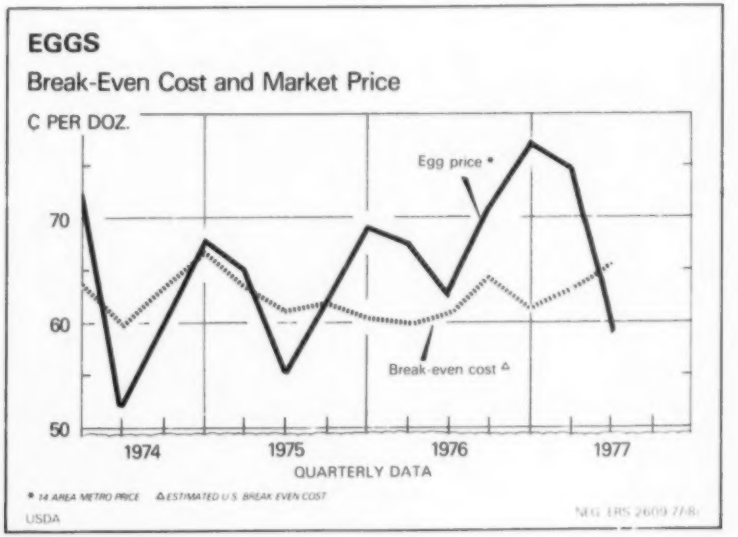

MATURE CHICKEN SLAUGHTER*
MIL. HEAD
18
14
10
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* FOWL FROM BREEDER AND MARKET EGG FLOCKS.
USDA
NEG. ERS 621-77(8)


EGGS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER DOZ.
70
60
50
Egg price *
Break-even cost Δ
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* 14 AREA METRO PRICE Δ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK EVEN COST
USDA

Also, when young pullets begin laying, it takes a few weeks for them to begin producing a majority of large or better size eggs.

In coming months, egg prices will strengthen because of the seasonal rise in the demand for eggs and little if any increase in output. However, New York cartoned prices this fall may average around 7 to 9 cents a dozen below the 78 cents for October-December 1976. Retail prices for large Grade A eggs, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for 56 urban areas, likely will average around a nickel below the 90 cents a dozen for a year earlier. (These retail prices are collected by BLS over a 3-day period early in the month.)

Table 4—Egg prices, 1976-77

Month & year	E.M.E.C. quotes on market values[1]		Received by producers United States[2]	Cartoned Grade A large New York[3]
	East	Midwest		
	Cents			
1976				
January	61.8	60.2	61.2	73.9
February	54.1	51.9	58.5	67.2
March	52.1	51.8	53.5	63.0
April	46.6	46.2	52.7	62.1
May	51.4	49.8	54.7	63.5
June	52.3	52.1	53.3	63.6
July	56.8	56.5	55.1	68.2
August	60.4	60.8	60.0	73.3
September	60.4	60.7	61.4	74.0
October	59.9	60.4	60.3	72.4
November	68.5	68.2	65.5	78.8
December	72.3	71.5	69.5	83.9
1977				
January	68.8	68.1	65.1	81.0
February	63.2	62.8	66.2	76.2
March	56.6	56.2	58.8	67.4
April	48.7	47.6	55.3	61.4
May	45.3	45.1	49.1	55.0
June	48.0	48.0	46.8	57.0
July	52.7	52.0	50.7	62.4
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				

[1] Average of weekly price quotations for nest run eggs by the Egg Market Evaluation Committee. Does not necessarily represent prices at which eggs are traded in the market. [2] Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. [3] Sales to volume buyers, store door delivery, consumer Grade A large.

Imports and Exports Up

Imports of shell eggs and egg products in the first half of 1977 totaled almost 7.5 million dozen, compared with only 408,000 dozen in January-June 1976. These were the highest imports for this period since 1973. Most imports were shell eggs from Israel, Canada, and Mexico. In the first half of last year Canada exported only minimal numbers to the United States, while Mexico and Israel exported no shell eggs to the U.S.

Exports of shell eggs and egg products were also up in the first half of 1977. During January-June, exports totaled 25.7 million dozen (shell equivalent), compared with 16.3 last year. Shell egg exports rose 39 percent to 19 million dozen with all the increase coming from shell eggs other than hatching eggs. Exports to Hong Kong and Venezuela accounted for the increase. Exports of egg products at 6 million pounds were more than triple a year earlier.

Shipments of shell eggs and egg products to American territories in January-June were 13.7 million dozen (shell equivalent), down from 14.8 million last year. Shell eggs dropped 25 percent to 10.0 million dozen, while egg products were up 86 percent to 3.0 million pounds.

Table 5—Egg supplies available to civilians for food, January-March and April-June, 1976-77

Item	Unit	January-March			April-June		
		1976	1977	Change from year earlier	1976	1977	Change from year earlier
Beginning stocks	Million dozen	28.2	20.7	-7.5	23.1	20.0	-3.1
Farm Production	Million dozen	1,357.9	1,329.8	-28.1	1,343.9	1,337.6	-6.3
Imports	Million dozen	.1	1.2	1.1	.3	6.2	5.9
Exports and shipments	Million dozen	15.2	16.1	.9	15.9	23.2	7.3
Military procurements	Million dozen	13.1	7.6	-5.5	10.8	10.9	-1
Eggs used for hatching	Million dozen	104.6	108.4	3.8	108.1	112.0	3.9
Supplies available to civilians for food:							
Total	Million dozen	1,253.3	1,219.6	-33.7	1,232.5	1,217.7	-14.8
Per capita	Number	70.8	68.4	-2.4	69.5	68.2	-1.3
Civilian population	Million	212.5	214.0	1.5	212.8	214.4	1.6

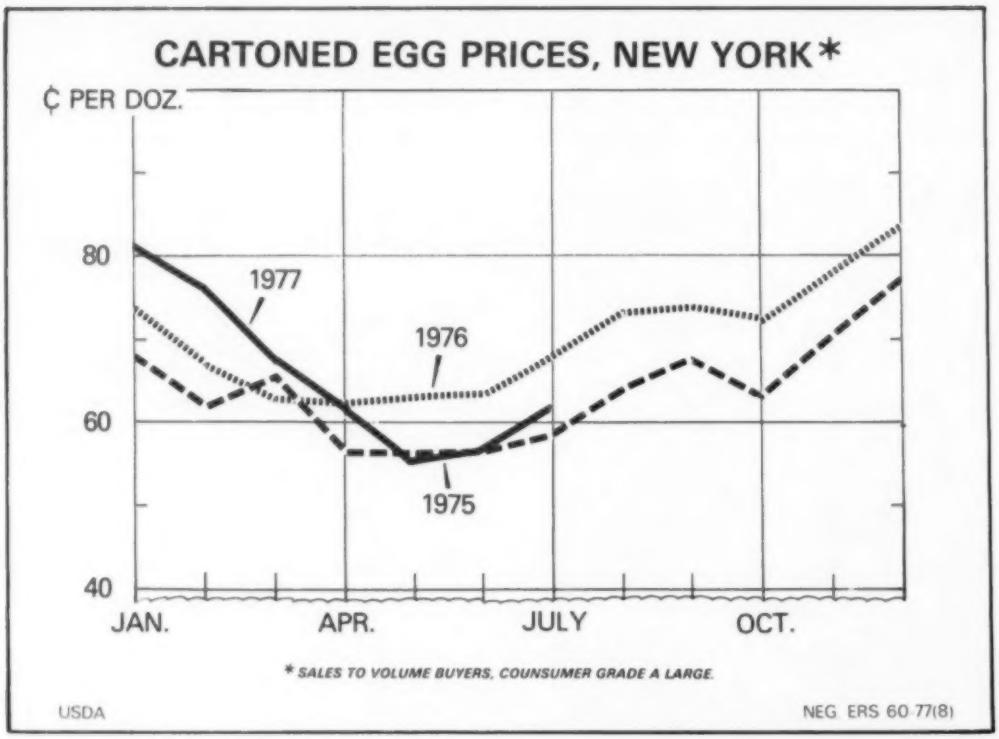


Table 6—Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under federal inspection, 1976-77

Period[1]	Shell eggs broken	Egg products produced[2]		
		Liquid[3]	Frozen	Dried
	Thou. doz.	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*
1976				
Jan. 4-Jan. 31	36,069	21,263	20,190	3,115
Feb. 1-Feb. 28	37,569	23,729	20,670	3,079
Feb. 29-Mar. 27 ...	44,727	26,076	24,695	4,726
Mar. 28-Apr. 24 ...	46,143	26,107	26,550	4,443
Apr. 25-May 22 ...	45,863	28,198	23,688	4,974
May 23-June 30 ...	68,698	41,699	36,648	6,967
July 1-July 17	28,425	16,315	15,971	3,472
July 18-Aug. 14 ...	48,264	29,420	23,802	6,064
Aug. 15-Sept. 11 ..	45,044	27,117	23,331	4,840
Sept. 12-Sept. 30 .	36,847	24,106	16,381	3,986
Oct. 1-Oct. 23 ...	42,290	26,283	21,049	4,841
Oct. 24-Nov. 20 ...	48,982	29,278	26,585	5,447
Nov. 21-Dec. 18 ...	42,792	25,120	23,021	4,432
1977				
Dec. 19-Jan. 15 ...	41,440	23,638	22,606	4,225
Jan. 16-Feb. 12 ...	41,678	25,598	21,842	4,588
Feb. 13-Mar. 12 ...	47,126	29,246	23,375	5,725
Mar. 13-Apr. 9	48,514	29,798	24,759	5,263
Apr. 10-May 7	56,549	33,807	29,849	6,518
May 8-June 4	60,437	35,012	31,644	7,001

[1] Weeks in 1976 and 1977. [2] Includes ingredients added. [3] Liquid egg product produced for immediate consumption and for processing.

Breaking Use Up

Commercial egg breakers have increased their activity sharply this year. The 4-week reports of eggs broken under federal inspection only cover the period through June 4 (table 6). However, these reports, plus weekly reports, indicate that there were around 340 million dozen eggs broken under Federal inspection during January-June, compared with 281 million dozen last year. Weekly reports indicate that breakings continued to run well above last year in July-August.

Although egg breakings have been up sharply, the stocks of frozen egg products trailed last year until July 1. Cold storage holdings of frozen egg products totaled 34.8 million pounds on August 1, 1977. This compares with 31.6 a month earlier and a year earlier (table 14).

BROILERS

Broiler production is expected to continue above year-earlier levels during the remainder of 1977 and into 1978. Market prices for broilers likely will decline seasonally this fall but remain above a year ago.

Table 7—Broilers: Egg set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1975-77

Week ending	Eggs set			Percent of previous year	Chicks placed			Percent of previous year
	1975	1976	1977	1977	1975	1976	1977	1977
	Thousand			*Percent*	*Thousand*			*Percent*
November								
29	72,321	72,364	74,495	103	58,348	58,362	65,524	104
December								
6	68,101	68,144	74,062	109	59,517	59,529	61,610	103
13	72,353	72,298	75,158	104	59,394	59,407	61,192	103
20	73,231	73,013	76,925	105	59,170	59,200	60,788	103
27	72,752	73,107	76,535	105	56,368	56,398	60,599	107
January								
3	65,629	71,739	77,327	108	55,349	59,337	61,750	104
10	64,498	74,074	78,159	106	54,933	59,146	63,003	105
17	66,755	74,905	77,503	103	55,429	59,615	62,986	106
24	68,543	75,253	77,278	103	54,259	60,608	63,984	106
31	69,768	74,205	78,699	106	53,500	61,168	64,335	105
February								
7	70,495	76,270	80,418	105	55,314	61,397	64,124	104
14	71,371	78,697	82,745	105	57,256	62,089	63,498	102
21	71,308	80,029	83,662	105	57,954	60,489	65,240	108
28	72,652	80,988	84,377	104	58,015	62,870	66,212	105
March								
6	72,080	81,478	85,498	105	58,821	64,639	68,052	105
13	71,552	81,792	85,522	105	58,776	65,667	69,314	106
20	72,818	82,119	85,721	104	59,796	66,944	69,109	103
27	73,608	82,832	86,761	105	60,015	67,168	70,238	105
April								
3	73,775	83,405	87,480	105	59,312	67,449	70,720	105
10	73,297	83,261	87,586	105	59,955	68,039	70,271	103
17	71,790	83,073	87,681	106	60,939	68,560	72,030	105
24	73,242	82,134	85,584	104	61,058	68,729	72,011	105
May								
1	73,892	83,482	87,274	105	60,932	68,869	72,407	105
8	73,994	83,402	87,474	105	59,279	68,369	72,040	105
15	74,033	83,302	87,359	105	60,504	68,075	71,057	106
22	74,241	83,767	87,144	104	60,120	68,461	72,221	106
29	74,554	83,815	86,554	103	60,828	68,729	72,098	105
June								
5	74,177	83,331	86,499	104	61,374	68,662	72,328	105
12	70,326	83,105	86,972	105	61,153	68,899	71,435	104
19	70,140	81,278	84,852	104	60,623	69,152	71,369	103
26	72,123	77,495	80,539	104	60,650	68,412	70,686	103
July								
3	72,110	80,098	82,998	104	57,886	68,363	70,978	104
10	71,893	80,641	83,846	104	57,244	66,538	68,787	103
17	71,789	79,981	83,527	104	58,669	62,977	64,921	103
24	70,325	79,317	80,559	102	58,985	65,615	66,851	102
31	70,284	78,625	78,391	100	58,420	65,670	67,218	103
August								
7	70,087	77,629	79,109	102	58,447	65,182	65,902	101
14	68,960	76,895	79,869	104	57,723	64,446	63,542	99
21	70,088	76,602			57,207	63,535		
28	69,445	77,723			57,136	63,297		
September								
4	66,559	73,964			56,445	62,768		
11	58,501	65,270			56,952	62,389		
18	68,763	71,768			56,339	63,517		
25	70,371	76,254			54,388	60,550		
October								
2	67,393	73,645			46,845	52,917		
9	59,532	64,939			56,278	58,163		
16	63,944	67,252			57,677	62,280		
23	69,922	73,567			55,207	60,217		
30	72,638	76,581			48,741	53,091		
November								
6	70,669	74,739			52,444	54,404		
13	72,536	75,892			57,244	60,157		
20	71,753	74,933			59,397	62,816		
	3,667,071	4,024,472			2,998,617	3,293,128		

Adverse Weather Slows Broiler Output

Broiler meat output this year has increased less than expected earlier, largely because of adverse weather conditions. First, there was the severe cold over much of the country last winter followed by the extremely hot weather this summer.

Broilers slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	764.7	782.3	3.82	3.82	2,116.4	2,156.2
II	842.9	869.1	3.78	3.80	2,313.7	2,398.5
III	864.8		3.79		2,371.6	
IV	780.4		3.87		2,185.5	
Annual	3,252.8		3.81		8,987.3	

First half 1977 young chicken output in federally inspected plants gained nearly 3 percent from year-earlier record levels. However, chicks placed 8 weeks earlier indicated that January-June 1977 marketings should have been up around 5 percent (table 7). This suggests that the extremes in weather conditions this year resulted in substantial losses to the broiler industry.

Although plant condemnations this year are above 1976, the major discrepancies between chick placements and the number of birds inspected for slaughter occurred before reaching slaughter plants. Condemnations at slaughter plants this year have been sharply higher but are still small relative to total output. During January-June, antemortem condemnations in federally inspected slaughter plants were 19 percent greater than in the like period of 1976, but they accounted for only 0.4 percent of the liveweight pounds inspected. Post-mortem condemnations were up 10 percent and accounted for 2.6 percent of the (New York dressed) pounds inspected. This compares with 2.4 percent for January-June 1976.

The effects of the unusually hot summer weather will continue to be reflected in third quarter broiler production. Although eggs set during the 7 weeks ending July 24 were up around 4 percent, they resulted in only 2 percent more chick placements. With large grain and soybean crops in prospect, combined with a return to more normal weather, broiler producers are expected to hold egg sets and chick placements above year-earlier levels in coming months. Broiler meat output in coming months likely will run 3-5 percent above the second half of 1976.

Broiler Hatchery Supply Flock Large

Producers continued to place a few more pullet chicks for the hatchery supply flock during the first half of 1977 than in 1976. Based on pullet chicks placed 7-14 months earlier, the number of layers in the broiler hatchery supply flock in July was up around 7 percent from July 1976. Although layer numbers are still gaining, the rate of increase has slowed and will continue to moderate in coming months to around 3 percent above at the close of 1977. However, chick placements are only one factor in determining the change in layer flock numbers. Both the increase in chick placements and the reduced rate of slaughter of old layers indicates that the flock would be large enough to provide eggs for further expansion in broiler production during the balance of 1977 and into 1978.

Broiler Demand Strong

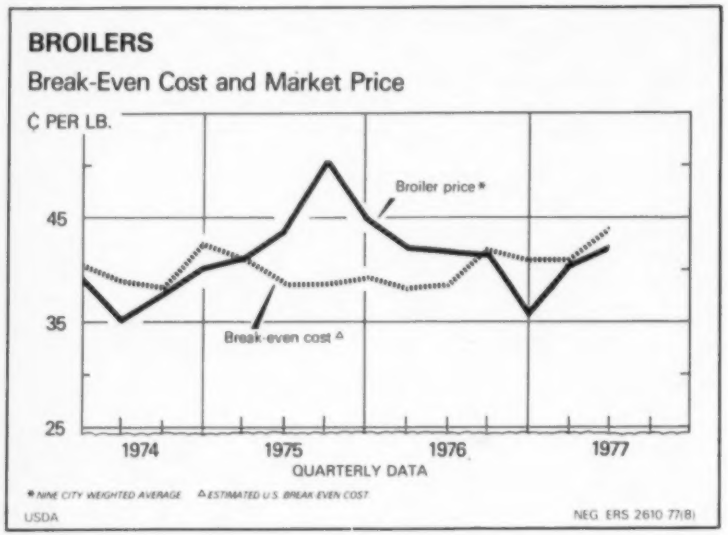
Despite larger supplies of beef, pork, and broilers in the first half of 1977, broiler prices increased and surpassed year-earlier levels in the spring. Wholesale broiler prices in 9 cities during April-June averaged 42.3 cents a pound, up a little more than a cent from the previous quarter and 0.6 cent above April-June 1976. Prices strengthened further in July and will remain relatively strong through the summer before declining seasonally this fall.

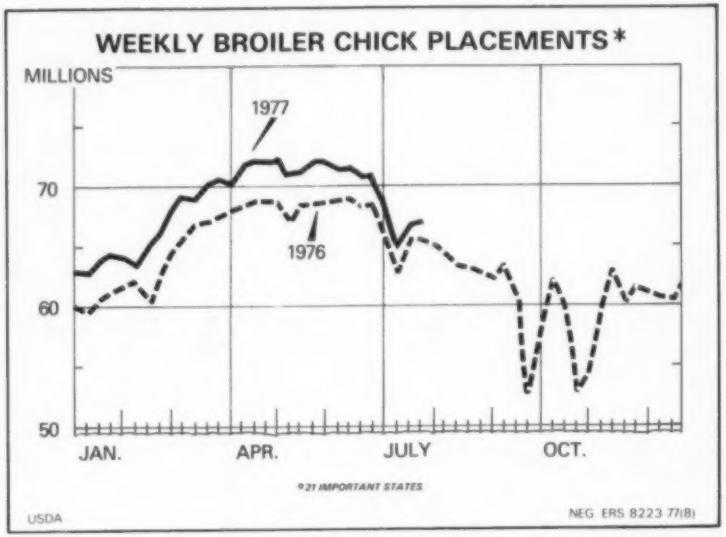
Broiler prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		9-city	
	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Cents per pound			
I	24.6	23.3	42.2	40.9
II	24.1	24.4	41.7	42.3
III	23.9		41.5	
IV	19.8		35.5	
Annual	23.1		40.2	

The usual decline during October-December likely will not be as sharp as last year's because of the expected drop below year-earlier levels in red meat supplies. Higher red meat prices than a year earlier are expected to hold October-December broiler prices around 3 to 5 cents above last fall's 35.5 cents a pound.

Retail prices for whole, ready-to-cook frying chicken in 56 cities, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, likely will run 2 to 4 cents a pound above the 61 cents for the third quarter and 55 cents for the fourth quarter of 1976.


BROILERS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER LB.
45
35
25
Broiler price*
Break-even cost △
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE △ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK EVEN COST
USDA
NEG. ERS 2610 77(8)


WEEKLY BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS*
MILLIONS
70
60
50
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*21 IMPORTANT STATES
USDA
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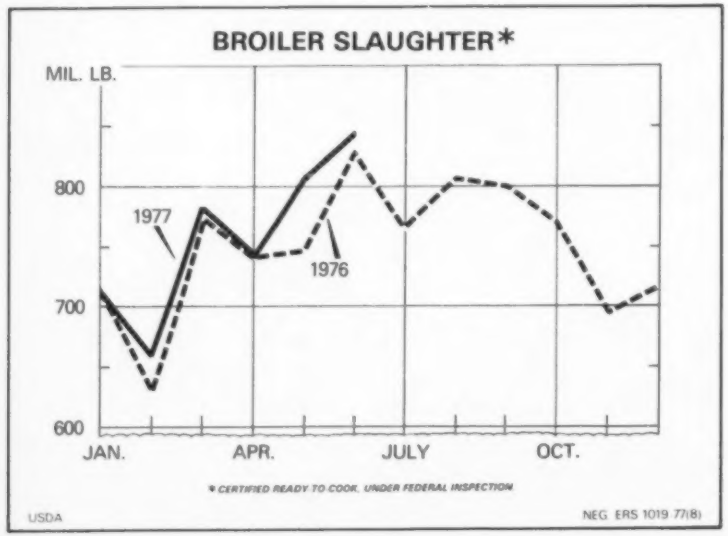
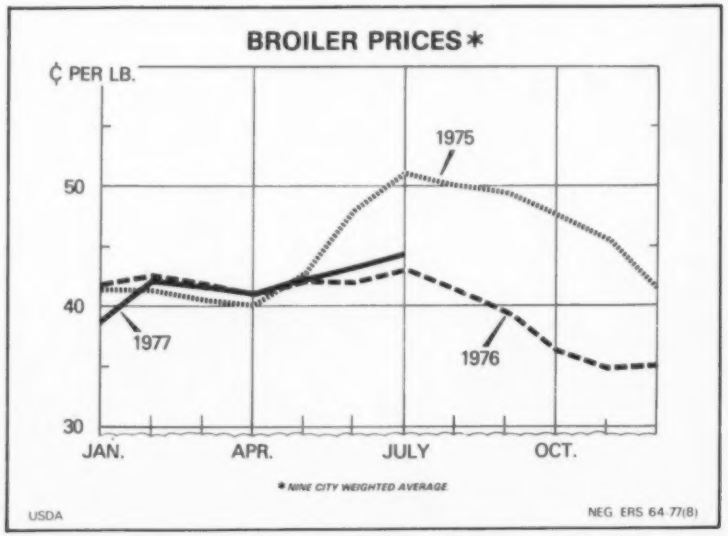

BROILER SLAUGHTER*
MIL. LB.
800
700
600
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* CERTIFIED READY-TO-COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA
NEG. ERS 1019 77(8)


BROILER PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
50
40
30
1975
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE
USDA
NEG. ERS 64-77(8)

First Half 1977 Exports Large

Exports of young chicken meat (primarily broilers) continued to gain through mid-1977. Exports of whole and cut-up young chickens during the first half of this year totaled 143 million pounds, nearly 32 million pounds more than during January-June 1976. Much of the increase in exports went to Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore—about 14 million pounds more than in 1976. A little over a million more pounds were exported to Canada. Whole chicken increased more than the cut-up category even though cut-up chicken exports were larger. Whole chicken accounted for 34 percent of the total, compared with 27 percent in 1976.

Exports are expected to continue strong in the second half of 1977 but may not match the record levels of July-December 1976.

In addition to these exports, 70 million pounds of young chicken were shipped to the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands during January-June. This was about the same as shipped to these two territories in the first half of 1976.

USDA Begins 1977 Purchase Program

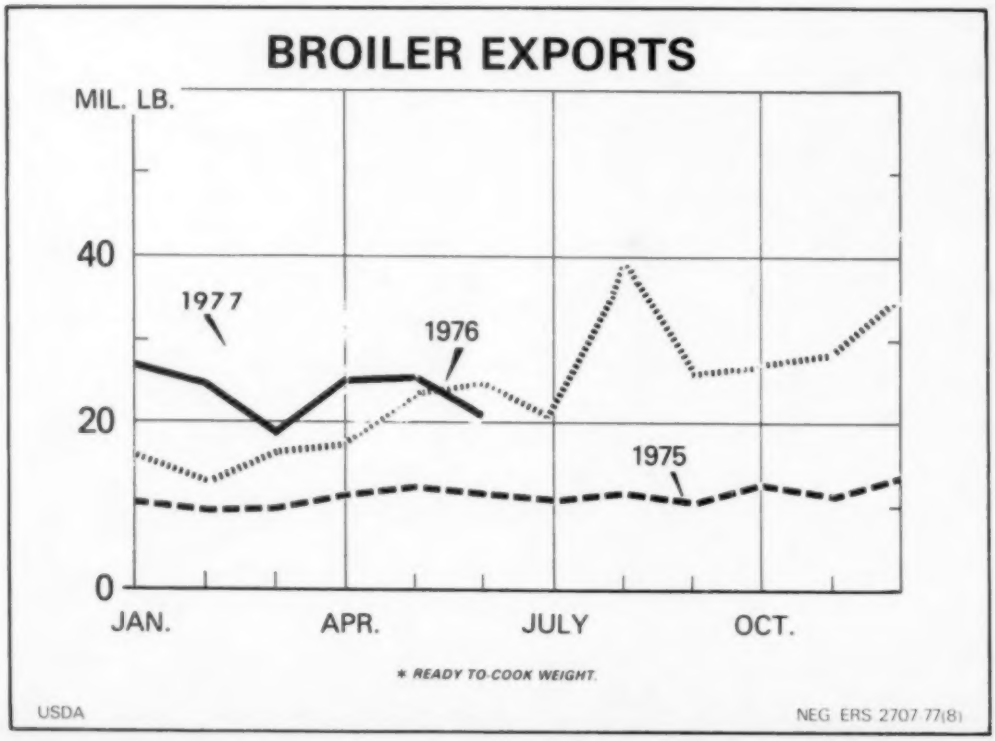
On July 15, USDA announced its intent to buy young chicken meat for the child nutrition and elderly feeding programs. Purchases through August 23 totaled 4.3 million pounds of fresh frozen cut-up chicken and 72,000 pounds of cooked frozen cut-up chicken at a delivered cost of $2.3 million. This compares with 3.5 million pounds during the same period of 1976. Based on previous buying programs, purchases likely will continue throughout the balance of 1977.

USDA also bought about 16 million pounds of young chicken during January-March 1977 this year. These purchases were made under the purchase program begun in 1976.

First Quarter 1978 Broiler Prospects

Relatively strong broiler prices this summer, combined with declining feed prices, probably will result in a continued expansion in broiler production in early 1978. The demand for broilers during January-March 1978 likely will be a little stronger than in 1977 and production costs should be lower.

Increased demand is expected to result from continued gains in consumers' disposable incomes and red meat supplies no larger than a year earlier. Pork output likely will be up moderately next winter but declines in beef and veal will be about offsetting. Pork prices probably will be moderately lower but cattle prices will be higher. Not only will cattle prices be higher but there will likely be much



less of the lower priced beef coming from old cows and grass-fed cattle than in early 1977.

Production costs have declined from the high spring and summer levels due to the sharp declines in corn and soybean meal prices since spring. If the corn and soybean crops develop as expected, both soybean meal and corn prices during January-March will be well below year-earlier levels. However, changes in crop prospects could result in feed prices higher than now expected. The cost of other production inputs likely will continue to inch upward, but lower feed costs should result in total production costs being below January-March 1977.

Providing that next winter's red meat supplies and prices and consumers' disposable income turn out about as expected, and broiler meat output expands by around 5 percent from a year earlier, broiler prices would be expected to average slightly below the 41 cents a pound of January-March 1977. However, if producers do not expand output, prices could average 2 to 3 cents a pound higher (table 8).

Table 8—Estimated 1st quarter 1978 broiler price/consumption relationships[1]

Domestic civilian per capita consumption		Estimated 9-city wholesale broiler price
Pounds	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per lb.
8.2	-15	47-49
8.7	-10	45-47
9.2	-5	43-45
9.7	-0-	[2]41-43
10.2	+5	39-41
10.7	+10	37-39
11.2	+15	35-37

[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] The estimated 41-43 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats and general economic activity and assumes no change from a year earlier in per capita consumption of broilers.

The price other than the base price of 41-43 cents per pound were estimated by assuming the same conditions for competing meats and economic activity as under the base but various changes from a year earlier in the per capita consumption of broilers.

Table 9—Young chicken: Supply and utilization, First quarter 1965-77

Year	Production	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Population	Per capita
	Million pounds								
1965	1,308	37	1,345	29	22	21	1,273	190.7	6.7
1966	1,429	34	1,463	27	35	21	1,380	192.7	7.2
1967	1,507	56	1,563	55	30	23	1,454	194.5	7.5
1968	1,526	56	1,582	38	29	23	1,493	196.4	7.6
1969	1,625	26	1,651	26	31	19	1,575	198.4	7.9
1970	1,800	34	1,834	39	41	13	1,740	200.7	8.7
1971	1,814	52	1,866	44	45	13	1,764	203.3	8.7
1972	1,942	40	1,982	30	55	10	1,886	205.7	9.2
1973	1,903	29	1,933	21	49	10	1,853	207.5	8.9
1974	2,009	33	2,042	35	64	4	1,939	209.1	9.3
1975	1,860	37	1,897	28	65	8	1,797	210.8	8.5
1976	2,134	22	2,157	19	78	8	2,051	212.5	9.7
1977[1]	2,173	33	2,206	27	107	6	2,066	214.0	9.7

[1] Preliminary.

TURKEYS

Turkey meat supplies for the main marketing season (September-December) are likely to total near the record high levels for the same months of 1976. Turkey prices are expected to strengthen and to average moderately above a year earlier.

Turkey Output Lags

Turkey meat output in federally inspected slaughter plants through June totaled 575 million pounds, ready-to-cook, only slightly below the same period of 1976. Although fewer birds were market-

Turkey slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	14.7	15.0	17.9	17.9	206.6	209.5
II	27.1	26.3	17.2	17.6	368.5	365.4
III	49.6		18.1		710.4	
IV	43.0		19.5		664.5	
Annual	134.3		18.3		1,950.1	

Turkey prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		New York wholesale			
			Young hens 8-16 pounds		Young toms 14-20 pounds	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Cents per pound					
I	32.8	33.0	49.3	50.2	47.6	51.4
II	31.7	33.6	48.2	51.5	49.3	51.7
III	31.0		48.5		47.7	
IV	31.8		49.0		50.2	
Annual	31.7		48.7		48.7	

Tom turkey prices, 24-26 pounds, f.o.b. New York[1]

Month	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	Cents per pound				
January	41.5	48.9	49.8	52.4	54.2
February	44.5	47.0	46.9	50.7	55.4
March	51.1	45.6	44.6	53.7	57.3
April	52.5	39.3	46.0	54.6	58.1
May	57.6	41.1	50.0	60.0	59.3
June	62.7	41.4	53.2	56.3	59.0
July	64.2	37.4	54.4	56.3	58.1
August	75.4	45.1	56.4	55.4	
September	77.0	46.5	57.9	51.3	
October	67.8	45.2	60.7	51.6	
November	57.7	46.9	60.1	51.6	
December	56.4	49.8	56.9	55.0	
Year	59.0	44.5	53.1	54.1	

[1] U.S. Grade A, frozen, ready-to-cook, carlots or trucklots.

ed, the average liveweight was up a little more than 1 percent from a year ago to 17.7 pounds. The heavier marketing weights this year largely resulted from the change in the mix between heavy-breed and light-breed turkeys. During January-June, 12 percent of the turkeys marketed were fryer-roasters compared with 15 percent a year earlier.

Turkey output will be down this summer but likely will about match year-earlier levels this fall. Poult production, largely for marketing during July-September this year (table 00), was around 4 percent below a year ago. However, compared with 1976, a larger percentage of these poults are heavy breeds, and this likely will result in a continuation of heavier marketing weights. Thus, turkey meat output this summer may only be down around 3 percent from July-September 1976.

Declining feed prices and stronger turkey prices are expected to lead to some pickup in poult production in coming months. Poults hatched in July and eggs in incubators on August 1 were about the same as a year earlier. With cheaper feed grains, the hatch of poults probably will increase relative to a year earlier during the light hatching months this fall and may result in a moderate increase in turkey meat output in early 1978.

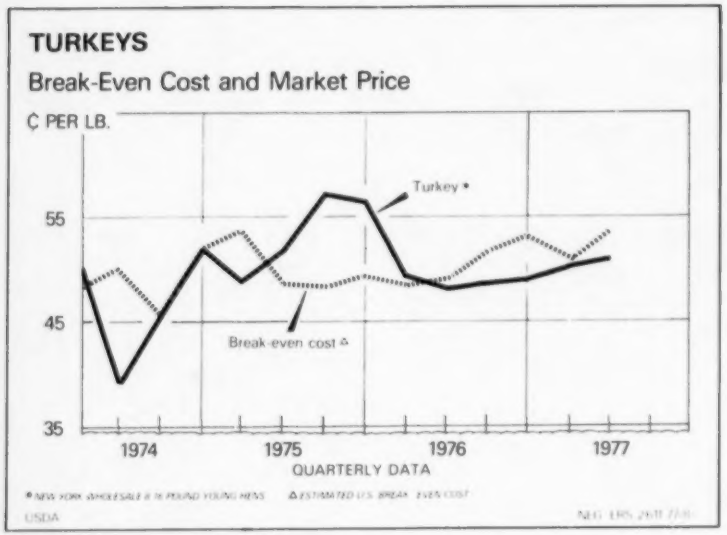
Turkey Prices to Strengthen Seasonally

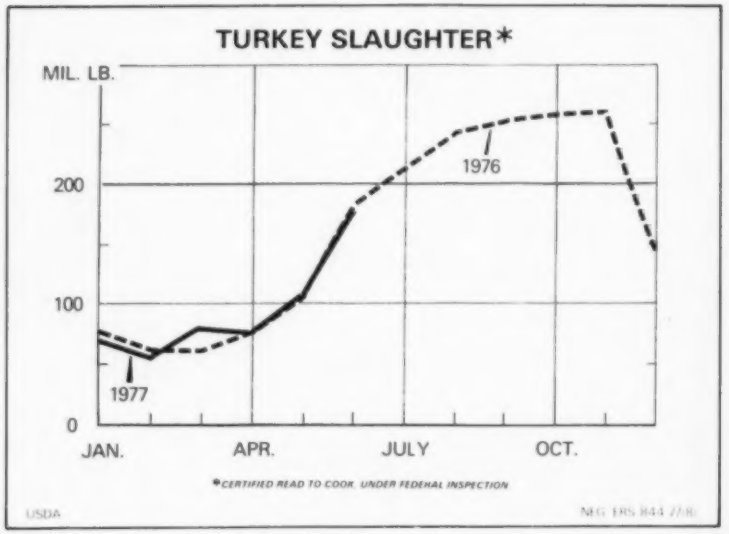
Turkey prices, after weakening in late spring, strengthened a little in July and August. New York wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys in late August averaged 54 cents a pound, up 3 cents from a month earlier and nearly 7 cents above a year ago. Wholesale turkey prices will be bolstered by a little smaller supply of red meats and higher than a year-ago prices for both red meats and broilers this fall. Turkey prices are expected to remain strong and average in the low to mid-50's this fall. This compares with 49 cents for October-December 1976.

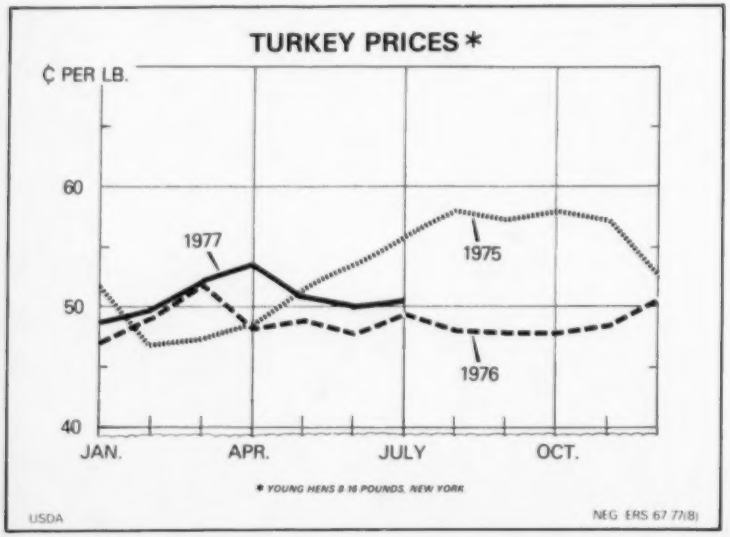
Table 10—Turkey hatchery operations, United States and 9 States, 1975-77

Month	United States				9-States[1]			
	Hatch		Change from year earlier		Hatch		Change from year earlier	
	1975-76	1976-77	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month	1975-76	1976-77	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*
September	4,337	4,259	-2	-2	3,710	3,635	-2	-4
October	4,465	4,967	11	6	3,766	4,055	8	0
November	5,391	6,087	13	4	4,466	5,075	14	+6
December	7,888	7,633	-3	-9	6,433	5,974	-7	-13
January	10,582	10,771	2	2	8,565	8,389	-2	-3
February	13,775	12,733	-8	-3	10,782	9,767	-9	-7
March	18,754	18,091	-4	-5	14,838	13,851	-5	-8
April	20,110	19,511	-3	-3	15,617	14,903	1	-6
May	20,348	20,967	3	0	15,789	15,963	-4	-2
June	19,609	18,925	-4	-6	15,412	14,755	1	-4
July	15,414	15,447	0	-1	12,077	12,252		-1
August	8,165			-3	6,648			-3

[1] California, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.


TURKEYS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER LB.
55
45
35
Turkey *
Break-even cost Δ
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
USDA


TURKEY SLAUGHTER*
MIL. LB.
200
100
0
1976
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CERTIFIED READ TO COOP. UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA


TURKEY PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
60
50
40
1977
1975
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* YOUNG HENS 8 16 POUNDS, NEW YORK
USDA

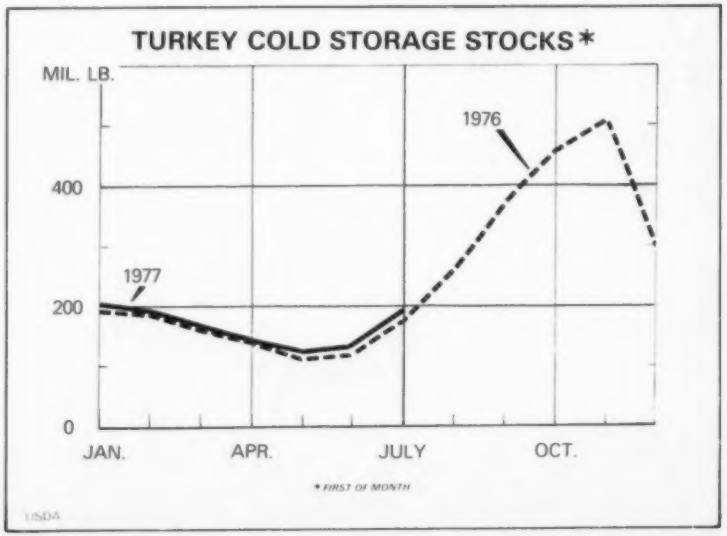

TURKEY COLD STORAGE STOCKS*
MIL. LB.
400
200
0
1976
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* FIRST OF MONTH
USDA

Table 11—Turkey: Supply and utilization, January-June 1965-77

Year	Production	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Population	Per capita
	Million pounds							*Million*	*Pounds*
1965	178	207	385	70	16	13	287	191.0	1.5
1966	234	200	434	70	13	22	329	192.9	1.7
1967	304	267	571	160	15	21	374	194.7	1.9
1968	258	367	625	185	16	24	400	196.9	2.0
1969	261	317	578	119	15	15	427	198.6	2.1
1970	293	192	485	95	13	20	358	201.0	1.8
1971	392	219	611	140	10	18	443	203.6	2.2
1972	444	223	667	143	11	24	488	206.0	2.4
1973	475	208	683	137	19	6	521	207.7	2.5
1974	592	281	873	266	22	1	585	209.3	2.8
1975	478	275	753	193	18	7	536	211.0	2.5
1976	605	195	800	177	35	7	581	212.7	2.7
1977[1]	439	203	809	201	20	5	583	214.2	2.7

[1] Preliminary.

Retail prices for medium size young frozen turkeys in 44 cities this fall will likely average 4 to 5 percent above the 72 cents a pound of October-December 1976 reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Because of the time of the month used in collecting these retail prices, they generally do not reflect the effects of specializing near the holidays.

Weak Export Demand

Turkey meat exports this year have been running far behind a year ago. During January-June, exports of turkey at 20 million pounds were down 40 percent from 1976's record levels. Exports were lower to nearly all countries, with the largest poundage drop to West Germany. However, there were large increases in exports to Nigeria and Hong Kong.

Shipments to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (U.S. territories) also dropped sharply in 1977. Shipments to these 2 territories totaled 434,000 pounds during January-June, compared to 2.2 million pounds for the same period of 1976.

USDA Buying Turkey

USDA started to purchase turkey rolls in July for use in the child nutrition and elderly feeding programs. Buying of whole, ready-to-cook turkey began in early August. Purchases through August 19 totaled 5.4 million pounds of ready-to-cook young turkey and 7 million pounds of cooked turkey rolls, the equivalent of about 16.5 million pounds of ready-to-cook carcass turkey. In 1976, purchases did not begin until August.

Turkey Prospects for First Half 1978

The situation looks fairly favorable for turkey producers during the first half of 1978. Continued favorable prospects for corn and soybean crops point to feed prices below a year earlier. Also, there is not expected to be the large swings in soybean meal prices that occurred this year.

General economic conditions are expected to continue to improve, and competing meat supplies may about match the first half of 1977. Beef supplies may be 2 to 4 percent below a year earlier, but pork output may be up 6 to 8 percent and broiler production up 4 to 6 percent.

The demand for turkey meat looks favorable from the standpoint of general economic conditions and competing meat supplies. However, much will

Table 12—Estimated 2nd half 1978 turkey price/production relationships[1]

Total federally inspected slaughter of turkey		Estimated New York wholesale price for young hen turkeys[2]
Million pounds	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per pound
488	-15	52-55
517	-10	51-54
546	-5	50-53
575	0	[3]49-52
604	+5	48-51
633	+10	47-50
662	+15	46-49

[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] Simple average for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys, f.o.b. dock equivalent in carlots or truckiots, U.S. Grade A, frozen, ready-to-cook. [3] The estimated 49-52 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats, general economic activity, and cold storage holdings of turkey meat and assumes no change from a year earlier in the federally inspected slaughter of turkey.

The prices other than the base 49-52 cents per pound were estimated by assuming the same conditions as under the base for competing meats, economic activity, and cold storage holdings but various changes from a year earlier in the slaughter of turkey.

depend upon the movement of further-processed turkey meat products. In an effort to smooth out production patterns through the year, the turkey industry has greatly increased its marketing of turkey parts and further-processed turkey products in recent years. Turkey meat certified ready-to-cook through federally inspected plants totaled 575 million pounds in January-June 1977, the same as a year earlier. However, the output of cut-up and further-processed turkey meat jumped sharply. Further-processed turkey meat in whole-bird form slipped 10 million pounds to 106 million, but further-processed other than whole-bird form jumped 54 million pounds to 300 million. Cut-up turkey meat, at 184 million pounds, rose 16 million.

The relative newness of further-processed products, coupled with the uncertainty around what products they compete with for consumer dollars, makes an accurate forecast of how well they will move in the first half of 1978 difficult, if not impossible.

The price for young hen turkeys, 8-16 pound New York, during January-June 1978 could average near the 50.8 cents a pound of a year earlier if the following conditions hold: (1) Consumer incomes gain as expected, (2) competing meat supplies are no larger than a year earlier, (3) turkey meat supplies are no larger than this year, and (4) the movement of cut-up and further-processed products is equal to first half 1977 (table 12).

EGGS AND POULTRY ECONOMICAL SOURCE OF PROTEIN

Food prices continue to inch upward, but eggs and poultry remain among the most economical sources of protein. According to USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), one way to choose among meats and meat alternatives is to compare the costs of amounts of equal protein content. Table 13 shows the amount of meat and meat alternatives necessary to provide one with the 20 grams of protein found in 3 ounces of cooked lean meat. This, and the cost of these sources, are then compared based on July 1977 retail prices.

This shows that only dry beans and peanut butter provide more economical sources of high quality protein than eggs. Chicken and turkey are among the most economical meat buys. The cost of 20 grams of protein from beef liver and hamburger was slightly below that for chicken and turkey. For a more detailed discussion, see the December 1975 issue of the *Poultry and Egg Situation*.

Table 13—Costs of amounts of specified meats and meat alternatives to provide 3 ounces of cooked lean and 20 grams of protein at June 1977 prices

Food	Market unit	Retail price per market unit[1]	Portion of market unit to provide		Cost of amounts to provide	
			20 grams protein[2]	3 ounces of cooked lean	20 grams protein	3 ounces of cooked lean
		Cents				
Dry beans	Lb.	0.41	0.24		0.10	
Peanut butter	12 oz.	.75	.23		.17	
Eggs, large	Doz.	.69	.25		.18	
Beef liver	Lb.	.73	.24	0.27	.18	0.20
Bread, white enriched	Lb.	.35	.51	.26	.22	
Hamburger	Lb.	.86	.24	.40	.21	.29
Chicken, whole, ready-to-cook	Lb.	.60	.37	.48	.22	.29
Milk, whole fluid	Half gal.	.84	.29		.25	
Turkey, ready-to-cook	Lb.	.72	.35		.25	
Pork, picnic	Lb.	.82	.32		.27	.38
Chicken breasts	Lb.	1.13	.25	.35	.29	.39
Bean soup, canned	11.25 oz.	.30	.98		.30	
Tuna, canned	6.5 oz.	.72	.44		.32	
Chuck roast of beef, bone in	Lb.	.92	.35	.45	.32	.42
American process cheese	8 oz.	.86	.38		.33	
Ham, whole	Lb.	1.25	.29	.35	.36	.44
Round beefsteak	Lb.	1.75	.22	.34	.38	.59
Frankfurters	Lb.	1.19	.36		.43	
Rump roast of beef, boned	Lb.	1.71	.26	.34	.44	.58
Pork loin roast	Lb.	1.34	.33	.50	.45	.67
Liverwurst	8 oz.	.76	.60		.45	
Salami	8 oz.	.96	.50		.48	
Ham, canned	Lb.	2.02	.24	.25	.49	.51
Sardines, canned	4 oz.	.56	.94		.53	
Sirloin beefsteak	Lb.	2.00	.28	.42	.56	.86
Bologna	Lb.	.81	.73		.59	
Rib roast of beef	Lb.	1.82	.33	.45	.60	.82
Pork chops, center cut	Lb.	1.79	.35	.45	.62	.81
Veal cutlets	Lb.	3.15	.21	.25	.67	.79
Pork sausage	Lb.	1.41	.52		.73	
Bacon, sliced	Lb.	1.56	.52		.82	
Porterhouse beefsteaks	Lb.	2.50	.34	.52	.84	1.30
Lamb chops, loin	Lb.	3.07	.31	.46	.94	1.41

[1] Average retail prices in U.S. cities, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. [2] One-third of the daily amount recommended for a 20-year-old man.

Table 14— Cold storage holdings of high protein foods

Item	Unit	August 1, 1976	July 1, 1977	August 1, 1977
			Thousands	
Total eggs[1]	Case	835	839	916
Shell	do.	34	40	35
Frozen	Pound	31,629	31,569	34,811
Total poultry	do.	402,863	353,462	403,628
Total chicken	do.	135,002	146,852	150,236
Broilers, fryers, and roasters	do.	25,615	34,096	33,432
Hens	do.	36,750	38,846	41,362
Other frozen chicken	do.	72,637	73,910	75,442
Total turkey	do.	261,858	201,172	246,214
Whole	do.	213,996	145,430	191,381
Other	do.	47,862	55,742	54,833
Ducks	do.	6,003	5,438	7,178
All red meats[2]	do.	645,376	725,674	641,991
Beef	do.	382,622	413,427	391,118
Frozen pork	do.	176,712	229,213	177,382
Pork in cooler[3]	do.			
Total cheese	do.	508,958	583,893	589,209

[1] Frozen eggs converted on the basis of 39.5 pounds to the case. [2] Includes other meat and meat products. Does not include cooler beef and cooler pork. [3] Not available.

Table 15— Estimated costs and returns for market eggs[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs all eggs		Wholesale, cartoned Grade A large eggs		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	14 metro areas price[2]	
			Cents per dozen		
Annual average[2]					
1972	17.3	28.9	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973	29.2	41.7	58.1	64.3	6.2
1974	31.0	45.4	63.5	63.0	-0.4
1975	29.0	43.5	61.8	62.9	1.0
1976[4]	28.6	43.1	61.6	69.9	8.2
1974					
I	31.2	45.6	63.6	72.3	8.6
II	27.5	41.9	59.9	52.1	-7.8
III	31.4	45.8	63.8	59.9	-3.9
IV	34.1	48.5	66.6	67.8	1.2
1975					
I	30.8	45.3	63.6	65.0	1.3
II	28.3	42.8	61.1	55.3	-5.7
III	29.3	43.8	62.1	61.9	-0.2
IV	27.8	42.3	60.6	69.1	8.5
1976					
I	26.9	41.4	59.9	67.7	7.9
II	27.9	42.4	60.9	62.5	1.7
III	31.4	45.9	64.4	71.2	6.8
IV	28.4	42.9	61.4	77.9	16.5
1977[4]					
I	29.6	44.1	63.3	74.4	11.1
II	31.8	46.3	65.5	58.9	-6.5

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for Grade A large eggs. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 16—Estimated costs and returns for broilers[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	9-city weighted average price[2]	
	Cents per pound				
Annual average[2]					
1972	9.0	14.3	28.2	28.2	-0.1
1973	16.4	22.2	39.8	42.4	2.6
1974	15.8	22.0	40.1	38.0	-2.0
1975	15.1	21.3	39.4	45.2	5.8
1976[4]	15.0	21.3	40.2	40.2	0.0
1974					
I	16.1	22.3	40.5	39.3	-1.2
II	15.2	21.3	39.2	35.3	-3.9
III	14.5	20.7	38.3	37.6	-0.7
IV	17.7	23.8	42.6	40.4	-2.3
1975					
I	16.4	22.6	41.3	41.2	0.0
II	14.5	20.7	38.7	43.7	5.0
III	14.6	20.8	38.7	50.3	11.6
IV	15.0	21.2	39.3	45.1	5.8
1976					
I	13.7	20.0	38.4	42.1	3.8
II	14.1	20.4	38.9	41.7	2.8
III	16.5	22.8	42.2	41.5	-0.7
IV	15.8	22.1	41.2	35.5	-5.7
1977[4]					
I	15.7	22.0	41.2	40.9	-0.3
II	17.6	23.9	43.7	42.4	-1.3

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly broiler slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for ready-to-cook broilers. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 17—Estimated costs and returns for turkeys[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	New York young hen price[2]	
	Cents per pound				
Annual average[2]					
1972	13.5	20.5	34.1	36.6	2.5
1973	25.6	33.1	50.6	64.5	13.9
1974	22.5	30.7	48.8	47.0	-1.8
1975	22.1	30.7	49.4	55.1	5.8
1976[4]	22.5	31.5	51.3	48.6	-2.8
1974					
I	22.1	30.3	48.4	49.9	1.6
II	23.6	31.8	50.2	39.2	-11.0
III	19.9	28.1	45.6	45.6	-0.1
IV	24.8	33.0	51.7	52.1	0.4
1975					
I	25.6	34.2	53.8	48.9	-4.9
II	21.6	30.2	48.7	51.7	3.0
III	21.3	29.9	48.4	57.1	8.7
IV	22.2	30.8	49.5	56.5	7.0
1976					
I	20.2	29.2	48.5	49.4	0.9
II	20.5	29.5	48.9	48.1	-0.9
III	22.6	31.6	51.5	48.5	-3.0
IV	24.1	33.1	53.3	48.7	-4.7
1977[4]					
I	22.1	31.1	50.9	50.4	-0.6
II	24.3	33.3	53.7	51.0	-2.6

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly turkey slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for heavy young turkey hens. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 18—Prices and price spreads for eggs and frying chicken., for selected cities and 10-city average

Item	Grade A large eggs			U.S. grade A fryers		
	April 1977	May 1977	June 1977	April 1977	May 1977	June 1977
	Cents per dozen			*Cents per pound*		
10-city Average prices						
Farm price	53.5	42.8	38.8	31.5	33.4	33.7
Price to retailer	69.9	60.8	55.0	45.6	46.3	46.3
Retail price	81.0	74.5	69.4	62.7	62.1	61.8
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	27.5	31.7	30.6	31.2	28.7	28.1
Farm to retailer	16.4	18.0	16.2	14.1	12.9	12.6
Retail	11.1	13.7	14.4	17.1	15.8	15.5
New York Prices						
Farm price	52.6	41.7	36.8	31.6	33.6	34.8
Price to retailer	67.0	55.0	50.0	43.5	45.5	47.0
Retail price	89.2	81.1	76.2	65.5	66.8	67.6
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	36.6	39.4	39.4	33.9	33.2	32.8
Farm to retailer	14.4	13.3	13.2	11.9	11.9	12.2
Retail	22.2	26.1	26.2	22.0	21.3	20.6
Boston prices						
Farm price	53.9	48.9	43.0	31.8	33.9	35.3
Price to retailer	67.5	63.5	57.5	46.0	48.5	48.0
Retail price	89.2	87.8	86.5	67.2	69.3	63.2
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	35.3	38.9	43.5	35.4	35.4	27.9
Farm to retailer	13.6	14.6	14.5	14.2	14.6	12.7
Retail	21.7	24.3	29.0	21.2	20.8	15.2
Chicago prices						
Farm price	51.9	40.2	35.1	29.9	31.8	31.9
Price to retailer	69.0	60.0	52.0	44.7	45.0	43.5
Retail price	72.4	67.6	57.7	61.3	62.3	52.4
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	20.5	27.4	22.6	31.4	30.5	20.5
Farm to retailer	17.1	19.8	16.9	14.8	13.2	11.6
Retail	3.4	7.6	5.7	16.6	17.3	8.9
St. Louis prices						
Farm price	57.2	45.2	40.2	30.5	32.5	32.4
Price to retailer	67.5	59.5	52.5	42.3	45.5	43.0
Retail price	80.4	71.8	65.2	59.3	59.9	60.6
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	23.2	26.6	25.0	28.8	27.4	28.2
Farm to retailer	10.3	14.3	12.3	11.8	13.0	10.6
Retail	12.9	12.3	12.7	17.0	14.4	17.6
San Francisco prices						
Farm prices	56.0	43.5	44.0	32.8	34.3	34.4
Price to retailer	70.0	58.0	58.5	51.5	50.0	51.5
Retail price	81.1	69.1	70.0	68.1	65.7	64.3
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	25.1	25.6	26.0	35.3	31.4	29.9
Farm to retailer	14.0	14.5	14.5	18.7	15.7	17.1
Retail	11.1	11.1	11.5	16.6	15.7	12.8
Atlanta prices						
Farm price	51.0	40.5	36.0	30.1	31.8	32.1
Price to retailer	67.3	59.5	53.0	42.2	44.0	43.3
Retail price	82.2	72.6	65.8	59.5	54.1	59.7
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	31.2	32.1	29.8	29.4	22.3	27.6
Farm to retailer	16.3	19.0	17.0	12.1	12.2	11.2
Retail	14.9	13.1	12.8	17.3	10.1	16.4

CHANGES IN MARKETING COSTS AND PRICE SPREADS, 1970-77

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ABSTRACT: Packing and processing costs and price spreads for eggs and poultry have been on the rise since 1970, with increasing costs for inputs outweighing gains in operating efficiency. Price spread components for assembly, long-distance hauling, and wholesale distributing have also tended to rise although increased production density, heavier loadings, changes in methods, and more direct marketing channels have curtailed the extent of such increases. Retail spreads are not strictly cost-related and vary from year to year.

KEYWORDS: Marketing, Costs, Price Spreads, Eggs, Broilers, Turkeys.

Price spreads and their cost and profit components for particular marketing functions may be used to monitor marketing changes. Based on index numbers of costs for such inputs as packaging materials, labor, energy, buildings and equipment, interest, taxes, and insurance, marketing costs would all have risen materially since 1970. However, changes in marketing channels and practices and gains in operating efficiency often offset input cost increases. Breakdowns of the price spread series contained in ERS market basket statistics and price spread series maintained by the Poultry Program area for major cities provide measurements of the overall effects of various forces.

The costs of packing cartoned eggs for the consumer trade have risen over 3 cents per dozen since 1970. About two-thirds of this increase has occurred over the last 3 years.

Detailed information on the costs of packing Grade A large cartoned eggs from the No. 1 Nest Run grade is available for five periods since mid-1974. Members of Egg Clearinghouse, Inc. (ECI), have voluntarily submitted records through ECI for analysis by the author (table 1). These records show an increase of almost 2¼ cents per dozen to mid-1977. Packing material costs have risen steadily since mid-1974. Due to variations in the number and composition of plants included in the various samples, average values for plant operating and administrative and overhead costs show some variations, although plant operating costs, in particular, appear to be trending upward.

Grade yield and size loss varies with the level of egg prices and with the discounts which exist under Grade A large eggs for smaller eggs and those of lower grade. A good quality No. 1 Nest Run pack may contain 3 percent Jumbos, 16 percent Extra Large, 55 percent Large, 15 percent Mediums, 1 percent Small, 8 percent Undergrade, and 2 percent loss. The extra value of the Jumbo and Extra Large eggs is much more than offset by the lower values for small sizes, undergrades, and loss. But the net value varies with market conditions. For example, a strong breaker market for small sizes and undergrades narrows the discounts and reduces grade and size loss. A high No. 1 price tends to increase the value of the loss factor.

The estimated components of the market basket series for eggs in table 2 do not show grade and size loss since they are predicated on the value of Grade A large eggs at the farm level. Price spread components reflect profits as well as costs. Packing spreads in table 2 include only a partial credit for the value of cases and filler flats received with loose-packed eggs. Some cartoning plants use new cases, and some receive cases and flats of lower quality than ECI trading standards allow. Packing spreads have risen steadily since 1970. Increases in

Table 1—Costs of packing Grade A Large eggs in cartons from No. 1 Nest Run grade[1]

Item	Period ending				
	Mid-1974	Mid-1975	Mid-1976	End 1976	End 1977
	Number				
Firms	21	18	22	14	25
Plants	45	51	39	14	50
	Cents per dozen				
Costs for—					
Packing materials	4.33	4.55	4.68	4.83	4.62
Plant operating costs	2.52	3.56	3.36	3.69	3.86
Administrative and overhead costs	1.72	1.60	1.71	1.28	1.57
Subtotal	8.57	9.71	9.75	9.80	10.35
Less: value of case and filler flats rec'd on an ECI trade	-1.59	-1.60	-1.60	-1.51	-1.50
Subtotal	6.98	8.11	8.15	8.29	9.85
Grade yield and size loss	2.99	2.66	2.56	3.10	3.35
Net cost	9.97	10.77	10.71	11.39	12.20
Change from 1974	---	+.80	+.74	+1.42	+2.23
Some factors affecting grade yield and size loss:					
No. 1 Nest Run price	46.0	44.5	49.9	63.0	47.7
Average discount for mediums	10.5	7.5	6.2	6.0	7.7
Average discount for undergrades[2]	10.0	11.3	10.9	15.4	18.4

[1] Based on records submitted to Egg Clearinghouse, Inc. by member plants. Revised from previous summaries to standardize treatment of costs of packing materials and grade and size loss. [2] Mainly grade B eggs and checks.

Table 2—Price spreads and components for Grade A large cartoned eggs, 1970-77

Item	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977[1]
	Cents per dozen							
Market Basket series[2]								
Assembly	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.2
Packing	6.9	7.2	7.6	8.1	8.7	9.3	9.6	10.3
Long-distance transportation	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6
Wholesaling	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.2	3.7	3.4	3.5
Retailing[3]	11.2	10.5	10.0	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	12.7
Total	22.9	22.6	22.5	23.7	25.1	26.2	26.1	29.4
10-city price spreads[4]								
Farm to retailer	13.6	13.2	14.0	14.6	13.8	15.5	16.7	17.0
Retail	9.9	10.1	9.9	11.4	12.5	12.0	13.2	13.9
Total	23.5	23.3	23.9	26.0	26.3	27.5	29.9	30.9

[1] Preliminary. Jan.-June only. [2] U.S. average. Components estimated. [3] In-store only. [4] For major cities.

spreads for assembly, long-distance transportation, and wholesale distributing have also tended to show up. But the extent of these increases has been moderated by increased production density, heavier loadings, changes in methods, and more direct marketing channels.

Price spread components of the market basket series for broilers and turkeys (tables 3 and 4) show similar trends to those for eggs. For all three commodities, retail spreads show some year-to-year variations. This is because retail spreads are only partially cost-related, also reflecting retailer pricing policies on various competing commodities.

Average farm-to-consumer price spreads for 10 major cities are typically wider than those in the market basket series. The latter are U.S. averages and include the large shares of volume which do not move between regions. For example, only about one-fifth of the market eggs, over half of the broilers, and about one-third of the turkeys move between regions. In contrast, larger cities are likely to draw at least some supplies from considerable distances, and the distribution system in metropolitan areas may be more complex and costly. Differences in the farm-to-retailer and retail spreads in the two series arise in part from the price series available for the 10-city averages. The prices to retailers often reflect some warehouse deliveries and, thus, the retail spreads reflect some warehouse and delivery costs.

Table 3—Prices spreads and components for ready-to-cook broilers, 1970-77

Item	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977[1]
	Cents per pound							
Market Basket series[2]								
Assembly	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
Processing	5.4	5.7	6.2	6.7	7.2	7.5	7.8	8.0
Long-distance transportation	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
Wholesaling	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.3	3.9	3.7	3.6
Retailing[3]	11.9	11.2	10.1	12.4	11.2	12.0	12.6	12.3
Total	22.1	21.7	21.3	24.3	24.5	26.2	26.9	26.5
10-city price spreads[4]								
Farm to retailer	12.6	12.3	12.6	13.0	12.2	13.7	14.6	14.1
Retailer	11.8	11.1	10.6	14.1	14.8	14.9	16.7	15.8
Total	24.4	23.4	23.2	27.1	27.0	28.6	31.3	29.9

[1] Preliminary. Jan.-June only. [2] U.S. average. Components estimated. [3] In-store only. [4] For major cities.

Table 4—Price spreads and components for ready-to-cook turkeys, 1970-77

Item	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977[1]
	Cents per pound							
Market Basket series[2]								
Assembly	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
Processing, regular[3]	6.5	6.6	6.7	7.3	8.1	8.6	9.1	9.1
Processing, other[4]	2.0	2.1	2.1	3.4	5.1	3.9	3.6	2.0
Long-distance transportation	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.1
Wholesaling	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.1
Retailing[5]	9.6	10.3	10.2	11.2	14.8	11.8	14.4	11.9
Total	22.9	23.8	23.9	26.9	33.9	30.2	33.1	28.1
10-city price spreads[6]								
Farm to retailer	12.6	12.8	12.8	15.4	16.6	17.6	17.3	---
Retailer	13.3	13.6	13.8	14.7	14.4	14.3	17.9	---
Total	25.9	26.4	26.6	30.1	31.0	31.9	35.2	---

[1] Preliminary. Jan.-June only. Individual components not comparable to full years because of differing practives on smaller seasonal output and more limited distribution. [2] U.S. average. Components estimated. [3] Whole ready-to-cook regular brands. [4] Includes special brands and some whole bird processed. [5] In-store only. [6] For 10 major cities. Oct.-Dec. only.

Table 19--Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Item	Data in--	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annu l
Tables 1, 5-6.--Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, 50 States														
Average for the month														
Number of layers on farms														
1975	Mil.	285	282	280	276	272	271	270	272	275	278	279	280	277
1976	Mil.	281	280	278	274	271	270	270	272	275	2 7	280	281	276
1977	Mil.	280	277	275	272	169	267	267						
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1975	No.	1,953	1,771	1,972	1,922	1,991	1,933	1,996	1,991	1,914	1,966	1,905	1,969	233
1976	No.	1,971	,855	2,005	1,965	2,020	1,961	2,014	,992	1,916	1,9 0	1,905	1,971	235
1977	No.	1,956	1,782	2,021	1,974	2,035	1,951	1,986						
Total monthly egg production														
1975	Mil. cs.	15.4	13.9	15.3	14.7	15.1	14.5	15.0	15.0	14.6	15.2	14.8	15.3	178.8
1976	Mil. cs.	15.4	14.4	15.5	14.9	15.2	14.7	15.1	15.0	14.6	15.2	14.8	15.4	180.1
1977	Mil. cs.	15.2	13.7	15.4	14.9	15.2	14.5	14.7						
First of month														
Number of layers on farms														
1975	Mil.	286	284	28:	278	274	271	270	270	273	276	279	280	
1976	Mil.	281	281	279	276	271	271	270	270	273	276	278	280	
1977	Mil.	281	278	276	274	270	269	265	268					
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1975	No.	62.6	63.2	63.3	64.0	64.1	64.3	64.5	64.1	64.3	63.3	63.3	63.6	
1976	No.	63.4	63.8	64.2	65.1	65.2	65.1	65.5	64.4	64.1	63.7	63.4	63.7	
1977	No.	63.5	62.6	64.6	65.7	65.7	65.4	64.8	63.6					
Daily rate of egg production														
1975	Mil.	179	179	,78	178	,75	174	174	173	176	175	176	178	
1976	Mil.	178	179	179	180	177	176	177	174	175	176	176	1 9	
1977	Mil.	179	174	178	,80	,77	176	171	170					
Tables 7-9.--Factors in monthly supply of shell eggs, 50 States														
Eggs produced on farms														
1975	1,000 cs.	15,444	13,892	15,317	14,725	15,069	14,528	14,975	15,0 9	14,606	15,153	14,775	15,325	178,830
1976	1,000 cs.	15,367	14,425	15,472	14,875	15,211	14,711	15,094	15,039	14,611	15,150	14,778	15,403	180,136
1977	1,000 cs.	15,194	13,711	15,419	14,897	15,214	14,475							
Storage movement of shell eggs														
1975	1,000 cs.	-4	16	-16	-6	42	14	2	-4	-8	-17	-15	-18	-14
1976	1,000 cs.	-8	7	5	0	-4	1	11	11	5	-18	-7	3	6
1977	1,000 cs.	1	15	-2	0	-9	7	-5						
Eggs broken commercially														
1975	1,000 cs.	1,441	1,218	1,215	1,455	1,651	1,898	1,957	1,738	1,698	1,702	1,234	1,229	18,436
1976	1,000 cs.	1,257	,252	1,722	1,690	,571	1,866	1,752	1,753	1,781	1,753	1,739	1,590	19,726
1977	1,000 cs.	1,499	1,485	1,876	1,899	2,168								
Eggs used for hatching														
1975	1,000 cs.	933	,096	1,093	1,128	1,069	1,046	1,027	953	965	959	1,025	1,066	12,360
1976	1,000 cs.	1,043	,218	1,227	,251	1,191	1,160	1,132	,049	1,034	1,030	1,083	1,130	13,548
1977	1,000 cs.	1,061	1,267	1,285	1,319	1,236	1,178							
Balance														
1975	1,000 cs.	13,074	11,562	13,025	12,148	12,307	11,570	11,989	12,332	11,953	12,509	12,531	13,048	148,048
1976	1,000 cs.	13,075	11,948	12,518	11,934	12,453	11,684	12,199	12,226	11,791	12,385	11,963	12,680	146,856
1977	1,000 cs.	12,633	10,944	12,260	11,879	11,819								
Tables 13-14.--Commercial production of poultry and red meat, 48 States														
Chicken and turkey meat, Ready-to-cook weight[1]														
1975	Mil. lb.	781	676	736	825	831	884	967	942	978	1,067	834	914	10,434
1976	Mil. lb.	857	758	912	897	910	1,077	1,045	1,115	1,125	1,094	1,021	928	11,739
1977	Mil. lb.	849	780	938	896	988								
Total red meat, carcass weight[2]														
1975	Mil. lb.	3,315	2,880	2,959	3,089	2,873	2,832	2,842	2,860	3,088	3,339	2,978	3,159	36,213
1976	Mil. lb.	3,267	2,907	3,515	3,109	2,928	3,150	3,048	3,350	3,467	3,497	3,453	3,367	39,068
1977	Mil. lb.	3,273	3,084	3,549	3,200	3,122								
Table 25.--Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Young														
1975	Mil. lb.	646.2	570.2	616.6	688.3	690.1	683.1	714.2	680.5	684.9	739.8	660.7	691.4	7,966
1976	Mil. lb.	712.3	632.3	771.9	742.5	745.4	825.9	766.0	805.2	800.3	769.5	699.2	716.8	8,987
1977	Mil. lb.	713.8	659.2	783.2	744.9	809.9	843.7							
Mature														
1975	Mil. lb.	47.8	39.1	43.8	44.6	37.0	39.0	34.5	34.0	38.7	42.2	31.7	40.5	473
1976	Mil. lb.	44.1	42.2	46.4	48.9	34.4	41.1	38.6	38.0	42.6	39.6	34.9	40.4	491
1977	Mil. lb.	43.6	42.6	51.5	48.6	44.3	48.3							

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights—Continued														
Total														
1975	Mil. lb.	694.0	609.4	660.2	732.9	727.0	722.1	748.7	714.6	723.5	782.0	592.4	732.0	8,439
1976	Mil. lb.	756.4	674.4	818.3	791.4	779.8	867.0	804.7	843.2	842.9	809.1	734.1	757.2	9,479
1977	Mil. lb.	757.4	701.8	834.7	793.5	854.1	892.0							
Table 26.—Turkey certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Fryer-roasters														
1975	Mil. lb.	7.0	6.9	7.5	7.7	6.9	7.2	8.3	7.0	6.8	8.8	8.2	7.0	89
1976	Mil. lb.	6.5	6.4	8.1	6.9	7.5	9.2	9.5	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.2	5.0	92
1977	Mil. lb.	3.2	5.8	7.8	5.1	5.8	7.6							
Young turkeys														
1975	Mil. lb.	56.8	39.9	45.8	60.5	73.6	128.3	181.3	194.7	221.1	248.3	211.9	150.1	1,612
1976	Mil. lb.	68.9	54.5	58.8	72.1	98.3	170.0	200.3	233.1	243.3	248.4	252.8	141.2	1,842
1977	Mil. lb.	66.1	51.9	71.0	73.1	103.3	165.4							
Old turkeys														
1975	Mil. lb.	1.1	.3	1.2	.6	1.5	2.9	3.7	1.6	1.0	.4	.1	.3	15
1976	Mil. lb.	.8	.9	1.8	.9	.7	3.1	4.1	2.4	1.3	.3	.4	.3	17
1977	Mil. lb.	1.3	1.1	1.4	.7	.9	3.4							
Total turkeys														
1975	Mil. lb.	64.9	47.1	54.4	68.7	81.9	138.4	193.2	203.3	229.0	257.5	220.2	157.5	1,716
1976	Mil. lb.	76.3	61.7	68.6	79.9	106.5	182.2	213.9	243.8	252.8	256.6	261.5	146.4	1,950
1977	Mil. lb.	70.5	58.7	80.3	78.9	110.0	176.5							
Table 27.—Ducks, and total poultry certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Ducks														
1975	Mil. lb.	2.5	2.2	2.8	4.7	5.0	5.8	5.3	4.6	4.8	4.7	3.7	3.9	50
1976	Mil. lb.	3.2	2.7	3.4	4.7	5.2	6.4	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.3	4.9	4.2	58
1977	Mil. lb.	3.4	3.2	3.9	4.5	5.4	6.5							
Total poultry														
1975	Mil. lb.	761.6	658.7	717.6	806.5	814.1	866.5	947.5	922.7	957.5	1,045.6	816.7	893.5	10,210
1976	Mil. lb.	836.0	739.0	890.4	876.1	891.7	1,055.8	1,024.7	1,093.2	1,101.9	1,072.5	1,001.9	908.2	11,491
1977	Mil. lb.	831.5	763.9	918.9	877.1	969.7	1,075.2							
Table 28.—Chicken and turkey inspected for further processing in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Chicken														
Young														
1975	Mil. lb.	39.6	35.6	38.4	41.9	40.9	47.3	48.2	48.0	50.3	55.3	45.4	49.7	541
1976	Mil. lb.	51.8	47.5	55.6	53.6	52.2	61.0	54.4	56.3	54.0	54.3	50.0	52.8	643
1977	Mil. lb.	50.5	52.9	66.0	58.3	53.1	67.8							
Mature														
1975	Mil. lb.	31.2	24.4	25.6	29.1	21.8	28.3	25.5	27.7	31.9	38.3	34.1	38.2	356
1976	Mil. lb.	43.2	39.6	44.7	40.0	36.8	32.3	26.9	35.5	32.3	33.8	34.0	36.8	436
1977	Mil. lb.	37.8	38.5	43.1	39.5	35.9	33.1							
Total														
1975	Mil. lb.	70.8	60.0	64.0	71.0	62.7	75.6	73.8	75.7	82.2	93.7	79.6	8.9	897
1976	Mil. lb.	95.0	87.1	100.3	93.6	89.0	93.3	81.3	91.8	86.3	88.1	84.0	89.6	1,079
1977	Mil. lb.	88.2	91.4	109.1	97.8	89.0	100.9							
Turkey														
1975	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	44.7	49.1	45.3	69.1	99.1	107.4	111.8	129.1	98.9	67.2	908
1976	Mil. lb.	47.9	44.4	54.5	49.1	69.0	97.9	113.6	124.9	132.1	133.9	119.0	67.5	1,054
1977	Mil. lb.	50.2	50.8	69.2	60.6	74.9	100.6							
Table 32.—Per capita consumption of shell eggs														
Shell equivalent:														
1975	no.	22.0	19.4	21.9	20.4	20.6	19.2	20.1	20.6	19.9	20.9	20.9	21.7	248
1976	do.	21.8	19.7	20.6	19.8	20.6	19.3	20.2	20.2	19.5	20.4	19.6	20.9	243
1977	do.	20.9	18.1	20.1	19.0	19.2								
Tables 34-41.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per dozen for shell eggs														
United States, received by farmers[3]														
1975	Cents	57.2	54.1	54.1	47.4	47.1	45.6	46.5	50.8	55.8	52.9	58.2	63.4	52.8
1976	do.	61.2	58.5	53.5	52.7	54.7	53.3	55.1	60.0	61.4	60.3	65.5	69.5	58.8
1977	do.	65.1	66.2	58.8	55.3	49.1	46.8	50.7						
Grade A large eggs in retail stores[4] [5]														
1975	do.	84.2	83.9	74.9	77.2	70.6	66.9	70.6	73.7	79.9	77.7	78.1	86.1	77.0
1976	do.	89.1	90.1	78.2	77.6	75.2	74.4	80.0	85.7	89.0	87.6	87.3	94.6	84.1
1977	do.	98.6	103.4	89.0	81.2	75.4	68.7	80.9						

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 34-41.—Monthly average price per dozen shell eggs—Continued														
Iowa, received by farmers														
Buyer quality and volume incentive														
Large														
1975	Cents	50.25	43.34	45.26	36.09	36.86	36.90	39.27	44.64	49.43	45.12	51.05	58.52	44.73
1976	do.	56.21	50.26	44.91	44.20	45.80	45.64	50.31	56.50	57.40	55.68	60.98	66.50	52.37
1977	do.	62.45	59.42	51.13	46.24	39.33	39.61							
Medium														
1975	do.	44.32	37.21	37.38	30.48	26.26	25.90	27.89	34.02	39.31	38.55	42.95	53.25	36.46
1976	do.	48.93	43.63	34.78	35.43	39.42	37.52	40.57	45.84	4..71	46.53	55.57	60.52	44.70
1977	do.	56.67	54.82	41.98	37.43	30.12	28.05							
Price to volume buyers[6]														
14 Metro areas:														
Large														
1975	do.	67.82	62.49	64.24	55.78	55.37	54.88	56.76	62.28	66.85	62.37	69.08	75.81	62.81
1976	do.	73.30	67.42	62.40	62.05	63.27	62.30	67.38	72.22	3.52	71.44	76.66	82.52	69.54
1977	do.	78.98	76.61	67.99	63.28	56.09	57.52	63.07						
Los Angeles, Grade AA:														
Large														
1975	do.	68.32	68.71	68.55	58.74	60.26	58.50	55.73	61.64	66.78	63.74	.0.00	75.48	64.70
1976	do.	75.33	69.00	66.96	66.36	65.75	66.04	69.86	75.00	4.5	68.97	73.67	78.42	70.83
1977	do.	78.29	76.47	70.13	67.29	61.05	64.00	66.50						
Medium														
1975	do.	67.32	67.71	65.67	53.85	54.55	50.50	49.27	52.74	59.78	60.93	69.00	74.48	60.48
1976	do.	74.33	66.56	63.96	62.91	62.50	60.86	59.71	66.23	69.57	63.39	.0.19	76.15	66.36
1977	do.	76.81	73.84	65.96	62.29	55.00	56.00	54.25						
New York, wholesale prices, white														
Large, 75 percent A														
1975	do.	62.18	55.44	59.24	50.17	49.26	50.55	52.59	58.21	61.56	56.65	65.67	71.85	57.78
1976	do.	68.44	60.50	56.78	55.44	58.38	58.83	63.06	68.56	69.19	67.50	75.19	78.17	65.00
1977	do.	75.06	69.94	63.12	56.92	---	---	---	---					
Medium														
1975	do.	57.75	50.58	53.24	46.18	40.76	41.43	42.58	48.28	53.07	53.61	59.42	70.50	51.45
1976	do.	64.22	57.94	49.56	49.50	53.88	50.94	55.39	60.83	60.33	61.87	71.94	74.94	59.28
1977	do.	71.19	66.44	TF	49.58	---	---	---						
Midwest, paid delivered														
Large														
1975	do.	66.20	59.62	61.38	53.25	53.20	52.75	55.20	60.50	65.25	60.90	67.75	74.50	60.88
1976	do.	72.75	66.25	60.75	59.85	62.31	61.12	65.85	71.44	72.12	70.20	76.00	81.60	68.35
1977	do.	78.50	75.38	67.00	62.60	55.12	54.62	61.60						
Medium														
1975	do.	62.00	54.88	55.50	49.50	45.20	44.25	45.60	50.50	56.38	56.60	6..00	72.50	54.49
1976	do.	68.30	62.62	53.00	52.60	56.88	53.94	56.65	62.25	63.75	63.20	72.50	77.60	6..94
1977	do.	74.00	71.38	58.44	54.55	45.75	44.00	47.45						
Table 42.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per pound for frozen egg products														
New York and Philadelphia														
Frozen egg														
Whole egg, light colored														
1975	Cents	36.06	33.81	32.48	32.72	37.94	37.59	38.38	39.80	42.3.	41.39	42.16	41.79	38.04
1976	do.	41.31	42.75	42.56	40.52	41.84	42.64	43.83	47.86	52.50	52.06	54.02	52.50	46.20
1977	do.	50.47	48.28	45.46	41.61	41.11	39.53							
White														
1975	do.	17.57	16.97	16.41	16.38	18.75	20.44	21.38	22.27	23.11	22.69	22.94	22.92	20.15
1976	do.	22.31	22.59	22.58	21.92	23.88	25.56	26.97	28.75	31.75	32.3.	34.28	34.00	27.25
1977	do.	32.31	32.16	31.03	30.19	30.69	29.75							
Yolks, light colored, sugared,														
43 percent solids														
1975	do.	69.39	64.69	60.69	57.69	60.58	61.75	62.69	64.72	67.69	67.42	6..94	68.11	64.45
1976	do.	67.42	67.78	67.50	65.46	66.07	67.40	69.28	76.22	83.34	83.43	84.16	82.02	73.34
1977	do.	79.20	76.62	71.78	65.50	64.11	63.00							
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound														
Liveweight														
United States, at farm														
1975	do.	23.8	24.3	23.5	23.2	24.6	27.6	29.7	29.1	29.6	28.5	2..0	23.9	26.2
1976	do.	24.2	25.2	24.4	23.5	24.6	24.3	25.4	23.8	22.8	20.6	19.4	19.3	23.1
1977	do.	21.5	24.0	24.3	24.3	24.3	24.7	26.2						

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound—Continued														
Broilers, weighted average, delivered to major areas[5]														
9-City average[7]														
1975	Cents	41.64	41.37	40.72	40.06	42.88	48.05	51.20	49.96	49.66	4 .73	45.82	4 .79	45.07
1976	do.	4 .89	42.68	41.93	41.00	42.07	42.11	43.16	41.6	39.72	36.45	34.92	35.00	40.21
1977	do.	38.78	42.13	41.92	41.44	42.17	43.34	44.28						
Chicago														
1975	do.	42.8	40.9	40.2	39.8	42.3	46.9	50.9	49.6	49.6	47.2	45.6	41.7	44.8
1976	do.	41.7	42.6	41.6	40.9	42.0	41.7	43.3	41.4	39.8	36.2	34.9	35.0	40.1
1977	do.	38.7	41.4	42.0	41.1	41.8	42.7	43.8						
New York														
1975	do.	41.6	41.3	40.3	39.7	42.0	47.2	51.4	49.6	49.7	47.6	45.2	40.6	44.7
1976	do.	41.6	41.9	41.3	40.8	41.8	41.6	42.8	41.4	39.6	36.0	34.2	34.2	39.8
1977	do.	38.0	40.7	41.1	41.0	41.8	43.7	43.8						
Los Angeles														
1975	do.	43.4	42.5	42.0	42.0	44.2	48.0	52.2	51.0	50.9	48.9	4 .2	43.3	46.3
1976	do.	43.4	44.4	43.7	42.2	43.0	42.6	44.4	43.0	40.9	38.0	36.6	36.9	41.6
1977	do.	40.7	42.9	43.3	42.5	43.9	43.8	45.7						
Frying chicken in retail stores[4]														
1975	do.	59.3	58.6	58.8	57.6	57.9	61.5	68.3	68.6	69.9	66.9	66.5	65.5	63.3
1976	do.	63.6	61.4	60.8	60.7	59.4	62.0	62.6	60.7	59.4	56.7	54.4	54.3	59.7
1977	do.	54.7	58.8	61.3	61.2	60.7	60.5	62.1						
Chicken breasts, in retail stores[4]														
1975	do.	102.3	103.4	102.9	101.3	103.0	107.2	116.7	117.1	118.0	116.1	115.8	115.3	109.9
1976	do.	112.3	111.8	109.3	109.6	110.0	111.8	113.7	111.9	110.4	107.0	106.0	106.5	101.6
1977	do.	105.9	108.1	110.5	113.0	111.3	112.7	115.0						
Tables 50-54.—Average turkey prices per pound														
Liveweight[3]														
U.S., at farm														
1975	Cents	32.4	31.2	30.7	29.4	31.1	32.7	34.4	35.7	36.3	36.4	36.7	36.2	33.6
1976	do.	33.4	32.1	32.9	31.8	32.1	31.2	31.1	31.1	30.7	30.7	3 .1	33.5	31.8
1977	do.	32.4	32.5	34.2	33.6	33.2	33.9	33.7						
Turkeys in retail stores[4]														
1975	do.	69.2	71.6	70.4	69.0	69.1	70.9	71.4	74.5	75.5	76.7	77.4	75.8	72.6
1976	do.	76.6	75.0	73.5	74.4	74.1	74.7	73.9	74.4	72.9	72.8	71.9	70.4	73.7
1977	do.	69.7	70.6	71.4	68.2	72.2	72.3	72.7						
Wholesale frozen (average f.o.b. or equivalent)														
New York:														
Young hens, 8-16 pounds														
1975	do.	51.6	46.9	47.3	48.3	51.6	53.4	56.0	58.0	57.2	58.1	57.3	52.6	53.2
1976	do.	47.1	49.1	51.7	48.2	48.9	47.6	49.5	48.1	48.0	47.8	48.4	50.6	48.7
1977	do.	48.7	49.7	52.3	53.6	50.8	50.0	50.8						
Young toms, 14-20 pounds														
1975	do.	49.1	46.0	43.7	43.3	46.9	49.6	52.7	56.2	57.0	5 .2	56.7	54.4	51.8
1976	do.	46.8	46.1	49.8	49.4	50.8	47.8	48.5	47.9	46.8	46.9	49.6	54.0	48.7
1977	do.	50.9	51.2	52.1	53.0	51.4	50.6	49.8						
Paid at seller's dock, frozen														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1975	do.	57.5	50.2	57.2	52.3	55.3	57.0	59.3	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	57.9	5 .0
1976	do.	51.8	51.8	55.3	52.8	52.9	51.4	52.2	52.0	51.6	51.2	51.7	54.8	52.4
1977	do.	51.9	52.6	55.4	56.6	54.4	53.9	53.9						
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1975	do.	59.0	56.7	55.0	52.0	52.6	56.5	59.5	61.8	64.3	66.8	69.9	70.0	60.3
1976	do.	69.0	69.0	69.9	70.0	70.6	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	72.8	73.0	70.8
1977	do.	72.5	72.2	68.8	68.8	69.0	70.1	72.1						
Chicago														
Hens, 12-14 pounds														
1975	do.	58.7	52.2	50.5	50.6	53.3	54.7	57.1	58.8	58.5	59.3	60.5	57.0	55.9
1976	do.	51.2	50.0	53.5	51.1	50.8	50.2	51.0	50.4	49.7	48.6	50.4	52.9	50.9
1977	do.	50.6	50.6	53.7	55.2	53.4	52.1	52.5						
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1975	do.	57.0	56.7	55.2	55.0	55.0	56.0	57.0	60.3	62.1	65.1	67.2	68.0	59.6
1976	do.	68.0	68.0	67.8	68.4	69.4	70.0	70.0	69.6	69.6	70.0	70.2	70.5	69.3
1977	do.	0.5	68.3	67.0	66.9	67.7	69.2	70.1						
Tables 57-60.—Prices paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and pro uct-feed price ratios														
All poults each														
1975	Cents	68.7	69.5	70.1	70.0	70.2	71.0	73.9	70.6	70.4	68.6	67.6	68.8	69.9
1976	do.	68.9	69.6	70.5	70.5	70.5	70.2	71.3	69.8	68.5	67.7	66.4	67.1	69.3
1977	do.	67.9	70.6	72.9	73.1	74.0	74.9	75.0						

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 57-60.—Price paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios—Continued														
Feed per ton														
Laying feed														
1975	Dol.	160	151	143	146	145	144	145	150	149	148	143	143	147
1976	do.	143	143	144	144	146	156	162	157	159	154	151	153	151
1977	do.	156	161	161	163	166	162	153						
Broiler grower feed														
1975	do.	176	167	161	164	161	162	161	163	164	164	158	160	163
1976	do.	158	160	160	159	161	172	181	177	179	170	169	174	168
1977	do.	174	178	179	183	187	184	175						
Turkey grower feed														
1975	do.	178	168	161	165	164	165	163	168	170	170	164	165	167
1976	do.	165	165	165	162	165	178	187	181	181	176	177	179	174
1977	do.	182	186	188	195	200	196	188						
Corn, Chicago No. 2 yellow (per bushel)														
1975	Cents	309	300	296	304	288	291	286	317	301	276	264	259	291
1976	do.	262	270	268	268	284	296	296	287	277	249	233	244	270
1977	do.	253	254	252	250	241	227	205						
Soybean meal, 49-50 percent, Decatur (per ton, bulk)														
1975	Dol.	138	127	126	132	129	140	134	144	144	136	127	132	134
1976	do.	136	139	136	136	162	200	208	187	192	182	193	213	174
1977	do.	224	230	247	299	284	247	183						
Product-feed price ratios														
Broiler[10]														
1975	Lbs.	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.2
1976	do.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.8
1977	do.	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.0						
Turkey[11]														
1975	do.	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.2
1976	do.	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.7
1977	do.	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.6						
Egg[12]														
1975	do.	7.2	7.2	7.8	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.8	7.5	7.1	8.1	9.0	7.2
1976	do.	8.6	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.5	6.8	6.8	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.7	9.1	7.9
1977	do.	8.3	8.2	7.3	6.8	5.9	5.8	6.6						
Tables 61-62.—Chicks hatched by types and pullet chicks placed														
Chicks hatched														
Broiler-type														
1975	Mil.	253.7	239.0	278.1	275.3	285.1	274.7	270.8	268.3	247.6	249.9	254.6	271.9	3,169.1
1976	Mil.	278.9	268.2	309.5	310.6	321.1	309.2	303.9	295.9	271.9	268.2	267.9	283.0	3,488.3
1977	Mil.	293.3	272.0	322.9	324.4	336.9	320.3	310.4						
Egg-type														
1975	Mil.	34.8	36.6	45.4	47.4	48.0	40.9	38.1	34.9	33.9	34.8	28.4	30.7	453.8
1976	Mil.	35.8	39.6	50.1	51.5	48.2	42.4	38.6	38.3	37.7	37.0	36.3	36.6	492.2
1977	Mil.	40.2	41.3	51.0	54.8	52.5	44.4	37.4						
Pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks[13]														
Total														
1975	Thou.	2,211	2,134	2,754	2,492	2,874	2,459	2,466	2,645	2,647	2,449	2,306	2,379	29,816
1976	Thou.	2,423	2,556	2,907	3,104	3,164	2,648	2,797	2,836	2,584	2,668	2,434	2,547	32,668
1977	Thou.	2,585	2,419	2,919	3,275	3,025	2,730	2,782						
Cumulation relevant to breeder flock[14]														
1975	Thou.	20,632	20,585	20,490	20,161	19,828	19,093	18,600	18,057	17,666	18,161	18,365	19,079	
1976	Thou.	19,397	19,692	20,035	20,471	20,786	20,338	20,225	19,774	19,871	20,312	20,771	21,288	
1977	Thou.	21,487	21,978	22,435	22,596	22,708	22,235	21,678	21,099	20,870	20,992	21,431	21,872	
1978	Thou.	21,934	22,282											
Table 63.—Poults hatched by breeds														
Poults hatched														
Light breeds														
1975	Thou.	1,202	1,367	1,406	1,857	1,526	1,400	1,524	1,319	747	1,008	1,244	1,518	15,918
1976	Thou.	1,815	1,497	1,996	2,079	1,931	1,930	1,997	1,215	625	955	1,265	1,257	18,562
1977	Thou.	1,203	1,126	1,270	1,372	1,374	1,265	1,380						
Total heavy breeds														
1975	Thou.	7,487	10,657	14,719	16,960	17,568	16,140	12,734	7,329	3,590	3,457	4,147	6,370	121,158
1976	Thou.	8,767	12,278	16,758	18,031	18,417	17,679	13,417	6,950	3,634	4,012	4,822	6,376	131,141
1977	Thou.	9,568	11,607	16,821	18,139	19,593	17,660							
All breeds														
1975	Thou.	8,689	12,024	16,125	18,817	19,094	17,540	14,258	8,648	4,337	4,465	5,391	7,888	137,076
1976	Thou.	10,582	13,775	18,754	20,110	20,348	19,609	15,414	8,165	4,259	4,967	6,087	7,633	149,703
1977	Thou.	10,771	12,733	18,091	19,511	20,967	18,925							

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 66.—Cold storage holdings of shell and frozen eggs, first of month														
All frozen eggs														
1975	Mil. lb.	54.2	52.1	51.0	46.7	42.8	44.7	47.8	52.1	51.9	51.0	46.6	42.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	36.3	31.7	28.7	29.4	29.7	28.9	30.1	31.6	31.0	28.7	28.9	25.5	
1977	Mil. lb.	26.1	26.9	24.9	24.7	25.4	28.1	31.6	34.8					
Shell eggs														
1975	1,000 cs.	36	32	48	32	26	68	82	84	80	72	55	40	
1976	1,000 cs.	22	14	21	26	26	22	23	34	45	50	32	25	
1977	1,000 cs.	28	29	44	42	42	33	40	35					
Shell equivalent of all eggs														
1975	1,000 cs.	1,408	1,350	1,340	1,214	1,110	1,200	1,291	1,402	1,393	1,364	1,235	1,108	
1976	1,000 cs.	940	818	747	769	778	754	786	835	830	776	764	671	
1977	1,000 cs.	689	710	675	666	686	744	839	916					
Tables 68-69.—Cold storage holdings of poultry, first of the month														
Total frozen														
Turkey														
1975	Mil. lb.	275.0	267.1	239.9	207.3	180.2	162.7	193.2	248.6	328.3	409.8	472.4	286.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	195.2	186.8	160.7	140.7	114.5	120.8	177.3	261.9	370.3	459.7	512.3	298.8	
1977	Mil. lb.	203.4	190.2	167.8	142.3	130.3	137.9	201.2	246.2					
Chicken														
Hens														
1975	Mil. lb.	54.0	55.7	55.6	50.6	59.1	57.1	56.9	54.3	52.9	49.1	44.7	41.6	
1976	Mil. lb.	39.2	34.7	31.4	29.4	32.3	30.1	34.2	36.8	38.6	37.9	40.5	40.3	
1977	Mil. lb.	42.1	40.5	38.8	35.7	38.2	40.0	38.7	41.4					
Broilers, fryers and roasters														
1975	Mil. lb.	37.2	31.5	32.9	28.0	27.8	24.1	22.6	21.7	22.5	22.7	21.9	21.5	
1976	Mil. lb.	22.3	20.2	19.7	19.4	19.1	17.4	20.0	25.6	27.4	24.3	24.3	29.1	
1977	Mil. lb.	32.9	27.4	24.6	26.6	24.8	27.9	34.1	33.4					
Tables 70-71.—Exports of fresh or frozen poultry														
Broilers														
1975	Thou. lb.	10,268	9,841	9,903	11,620	12,595	11,858	10,851	11,931	10,615	13,046	11,483	13,720	137,731
1976	Thou. lb.	16,263	12,881	16,254	17,226	23,950	24,940	20,438	339,409	26,048	26,555	28,906	34,537	287,408
1977	Thou. lb.	27,105	24,963	18,891	25,826	25,795	20,506	20,536						
Turkeys														
1975	Thou. lb.	1,384	2,551	2,979	2,952	2,851	3,807	4,389	4,023	5,293	7,139	5,368	4,507	47,244
1976	Thou. lb.	5,135	5,993	7,719	3,958	3,864	6,267	4,050	4,513	4,923	6,327	6,268	6,152	65,170
1977	Thou. lb.	2,947	3,303	2,138	2,435	3,909	5,033							
Tables 72-75.—USDA contracts to purchase chicken, and turkey														
Young chickens, ready-to-cook wt.														
1975	Mil. lb.	3.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	7.3	6.8	7.0	5.2	30.0
1976	Mil. lb.	7.6	7.3	8.4	---	---	---	---	4.5	5.2	3.3	6.2	4.6	47.1
1977	Mil. lb.	4.9	6.4	4.4	---	---	---	---						
Canned boned chicken														
1975	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	2.3	---	---	1.3	1.9	2.3	7.3	15.1
1976	Mil. lb.	5.0	2.9	2.4	---	---	---	---	1.3	.4	4.1	2.1	1.8	20.0
1977	Mil. lb.	3.5	3.0	7.6	---	---	---	---						
Canned boney turkey														
1975	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1976	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1.7	.5	.7	---	3.0
1977	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---						
Turkey, ready-to-cook wt.														
1975	Mil. lb.	2.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.1	6.9	10.4	---	---	21.6
1976	Mil. lb.	3.9	4.6	---	---	---	---	---	6.6	13.9	14.4	---	---	34.9
1977	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	3.6						

[1] Chicken and turkey meat, excludes slaughter on farms. [2] Excludes farm slaughter, lard and rendered pork fat. [3] Price reported as a price at mid-month. [4] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices are collected on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the week that includes the first Tuesday of the month. [5] Includes price for Grade AA eggs in Anchorage, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle, and Grade AA and ungraded eggs in some small cities. [6] Weighted average price to volume buyers for Consumer Grade A white eggs in cartons delivered to store door. [7] Prices paid by first receivers for cartoned Grade A eggs delivered FOB Midwestern cities. Prior to January 1974, reported as average price paid delivered to Chicago, loose, white, minimum 80 percent A. [8] Trucklot sales of U.S. Grade A and plant grade ready-to-cook, ice-packed broiler-fryers. [9] Computed by weighting the city averages by their metropolitan area populations. The 9 cities are: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco. [10] Pounds of broiler grower equal in value to 1 lb. of broiler liveweight. [11] Pounds of turkey grower equal in value to 1 lb. of turkey liveweight. [12] Pounds of laying feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs. [13] Placements reported by leading breeders. [14] Sum of domestic placements 7-14 months previous.

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The equation on page 30 of the June 1977 Poultry and Egg Situation had several errors. The correct equation is listed below.

$$DWBP = 70.9978 - \underset{(2.79)}{.6787}PCAB - \underset{(5.58)}{.8856}PCP - \underset{(6.60)}{3.8024}PCYC - \underset{(2.04)}{3.5038}PCT^{*} + \underset{(5.49)}{9.3826}RPDI$$

$$- \underset{(1.91)}{13.2578}S1 - \underset{(1.61)}{11.2413}S2 - \underset{(1.46)}{10.2682}S3 + \underset{(1.48)}{2.5818}D2 + \underset{(3.88)}{7.1269}D3$$

$R^2 = .857$ S.E.E. = 1.41 D.W. = 1.26